FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 029 *12 February 1985*

ARGENTINA

British MP on Possible Solution for Falklands B 1
Justicialist Factions Continue Infighting B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 9 Feb]

BOLIVIA

COB Orders 24-Hour Bank Employee Strike C 1
Police Ready To Act in Case of Emergency C 1
Shortage of Staples Noted C 2
New Political Alliance Announces Candidate [PRESENCIA 1 Feb] C 2

CHILE

Pinochet Asks Cabinet Ministers To Resign E 1
MDP Leader in Valparaiso, Nine Others Arrested E 1
Criminal Court To Investigate Student's Death E 1
Manuel Rodriguez Front To Launch New Offensive E 2
Briefs: International Reserves Increase E 3

COLOMBIA

Government Reacts to M-19's Plans for Congress F 1
Dialogue Commission Head Comments F 1
Army Ordered To Block Access F 1
Communique on Roadblocks F 1
Army To Detain Armed Persons F 2
M-19 Communique Criticizes Measures F 2
Legislator Urges Suspension of National Dialogue F 3
Military Discovers 'Huge' Arms Cache in Caqueta F 3

ECUADOR

Febres Addresses Nation on Salary Increase G 1
Delegation To Explain Debt Restructuring Abroad G 2
Correction to Oil Production To Increase G 2

URUGUAY

President Alvarez Submits Letter of Resignation K 1
Managua Reports Request on Political Prisoners K 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Agreement Reached on Refinancing 1985, 1986 Debts P 1
[LA REPUBLICA 6 Feb]

EL SALVADOR

Committee for Solidarity With Nicaragua Created P 1
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 9 Feb]
U.S. Decoration to Vides, Blandon Condemned [Verceremos] P 2

HONDURAS

Embassy Counters Campaign on CREM Land Dispute [TIEMPO 7 Feb] P 2
Opposition Group Statement Outlines Objectives P 3

NICARAGUA

Ortega Urges U.S. To Resume Negotiations P 5
Borge: U.S. Planning To Occupy Northern Region P 5
U.S. Document on Soviet Efforts in Region Noted P 6
'Text' of Note to Costa Rica on ARDE Activities P 6
Wheelock Discusses Production Priorities, Harvests P 7
Deputies Protest Conduct of Assembly Debates [LA PRENSA 7 Feb] P 8
13 Contras Desert FDN, Accept Amnesty P 9
H. Ortega Plans to Increase Training, Reserves P 10
Health Minister Guido Praises Soviet Aid P 10
Soviet Ship Brings Supplies From France, Venezuela P 11
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 7 Feb]
Pastora, Cruz, Joaquin Chamorro Discuss Unity [Voice of Sandino] P 11
ARDE Says Castro Guiding Government Policies [Voice of Sandino] P 15
Briefs: Chamber of Commerce Directorate; P 16
Assembly Third Secretary; Banana Exports

CUBA

Castro on U.S. Ties in WASHINGTON POST Interview Q 1
Castro Congratulates Cambodia's Hun Sen [Phnom Penh] Q 1
Castro Thank You Message to Lao Leaders Noted [KPL] Q 2
Reagan Address, Nicaraguan Reaction Noted Q 2
U.S., Honduras Begin 'Big Pine III' Maneuvers Q 3
Levi Farah on Government Support for Contadora [NOTIMEX] Q 3
Rodriguez Llompart Underscores USSR Economic Aid Q 4
Montane, French Communist Party's Marchais Meet Q 4
Montane Lauds French Communists Q 5
Carlos Lage Presides Over Provincial UJC Meeting Q 5
Hungarian Delegation Arrives for Celebrations Q 5
Hart Receives Culture Minister Q 5
Hart at Kopeczi's Departure Q 6
Italian Worker Delegation Meets With CDR Members Q 6
GDR's Guenther Kleiber Holds Talks in Havana Q 6
[East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 2-3 Feb]
Cooperation Meeting With Guinea-Bissau Begins Q 6
Msgr Vega Considering Castro Invitation Q 7
Domestic Trade Minister Leads Delegation to Ghana [cross-reference] Q 7
'Our America' on Fate of Chilean Dictatorship Q 7
Long Drought Affecting Agriculture, Livestock Q 8
Waterworks Announces Shortage Q 9
Basic Industry's 1985 Exportable Goods Goals Q 9

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

24-Hour Nationwide Strike Held 12 February R 1
Government on 'State of Alert' R 1
'Strict Military Vigilance' Noted R 1
14 Cities Affected R 1

CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA

Swan Appoints Minister, Rules Out Early Elections S 1

GRENADA

Police To Become Part of Regional Security Force S 1

JAMAICA

Divestiture of Shipping Line Shares Under Study S 2

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Barbados' Tull To Arrive for Cooperation Talks S 2
1985 Sugarcane Harvest Ahead of Schedule S 3

GUYANA

Further Reportage on Venezuelan Minister's Visit T 1
Economic Cooperation Accord Signed T 1
Joint Statement Issued T 1
Venezuela To Buy Bauxite T 2
Morales Paul Departs T 2

BRITISH MP ON POSSIBLE SOLUTON FOR FALKLANDS

PY081350 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2037 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA) -- British Conservative MP Cyril Townsend told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS today that by declaring the Malvinas Islands "an autonomous region," one which would be administered by its inhabitants, and by recognizing Argentine sovereignty over the archipelago, there "could be a solution" to the conflict over the islands.

He also said that "the ice between the two countries has still not thawed," so he believes that the resumption of negotiations within the next 6 months is "unlikely."

Townsend told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS by telephone from London that "a possible solution" could be found by declaring the islands "an autonomous region" to be "administered by its inhabitants" while "sovereignty remains in Argentine hands."

Regarding the possibility of leasing the islands to the United Kingdom, Townsend said "it could be a long-term possibility," adding that during his visit to Argentina last year, along with British Labor MP George Foulkes, "that possibility had been considered and that they, the British MPs and Argentine legislators they met with, viewed it as an elegant solution."

As for the current state of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, Townsend said that the "severe attitude" of Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo regarding the British decision to grant a U.S. oil company a concession in the islands has hardened the British position.

In reacting to a concession to drill for oil in the Malvinas Islands, granted by the United Kingdom to the U.S. Firstland Oil Co, the Argentine Foreign Ministry released a communique during the first days of January saying that it "will not recognize" oil concessions in the Malvinas Islands granted by the United Kingdom.

"The most urgent thing," Townsend believes, is "to break the current standstill" between the two countries and to "begin working out" a solution to the century-old conflict.

He also confirmed the announcement made by MP George Foulkes regarding a 4-day meeting to the United States by Argentine and British legislators to try to find a solution to the conflict.

JUSTICIALIST FACTIONS CONTINUE INFIGHTING

PY091908 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The Justicialist National Council elected at the Odeon Theatre yesterday called for a third party congress to be held on March 9; and the 2nd vice-president of the Peronist Party lower house bloc Ruben Cardoza summoned members to a meeting next Wednesday, February 13, to consider the bloc's leadership and stance in the house.

Lawyers for the Vernet-Iglesias-Miguel faction council (now called the "Justicialist Unity Sole Council" -- Consejo Unico de Unidad Justicialista) presented the summons to a third "unity congress" to electoral Judge Juan Fegoli, which they announced would be held at the Parque Norte installations on March 9.

Lawyer Torcuato Fino stated that a delegation would be travelling to Madrid soon to personally invite former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to the congress.

The lawyers pointed out that the congress was a continuation of the one held at the Odeon Theatre on February 1, which had been declared in "permanent session".

They also stated that this latter congress had not completed the agenda, such as the amendment of the party charter (allowing for direct votes) and guidelines for party action during the forthcoming November legislative elections.

Lower house Peronist Party bloc leader Ruben Cardozo meanwhile announced his decision to hold a meeting next Wednesday of the 111 Peronist legislators, a move which parliamentary sources said would not be heeded by those of the Iglesias faction.

Cardozo, who became head of the Peronist bloc when President Diego Ibanez and First Vice-President Jose Luis Manzano resigned, announced this meeting after an interview with Senator Oraldo Britos, head of the "renewal" national council.

The legislator stated the object of the meeting was to "achieve unity" and that "once a majority decides on its future authorities the minority has to abide by the decision".

The faction within the Chamber of Deputies, led by legislator Norberto Imbelloni and which responds to Herminio Iglesias, yesterday took over -- for about one hour -- the party bloc offices which were once used by Ibanez and his colleagues.

Meanwhile, the "renewal" council headed by Britos also held a meeting, to discuss the venue for next Tuesday's ceremony installing the new executive committee. Originally the ceremony was going to take place at the Venezuela 2151 headquarters, but the building was taken over on Thursday by a group of the opposition headed by Deputy Rodolfo Ponce and Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet.

"Renewal" sources revealed that during the meeting, contacts with Herminio Iglesias had also been discussed, especially with reference to an alleged phone conversation tape recording between leaders Lorenzo Miguel and Raul Bercovich Rodriguez, in which Bercovich is reported to have suggested that the only way to unite the opposing factions was by getting rid of Iglesias.

At press time, lawyer for the "renewal" national council Carlos Corach said the faction headed by Vernet, Iglesias and Miguel had "neither the internal authority nor legal capacity" to call for a Justicialist congress.

COB ORDERS 24-HOUR BANK EMPLOYEE STRIKE

PY111420 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Excerpts] In keeping with Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] orders, all Central Bank employees at the national level have decided to hold a 24-hour strike as of 0000 11 February. This information will be expanded on by COB Finance Secretary Angel Zavala:

[Begin recording] In view of the criminal measures that have been issued by the present government, the COB has enforced the first measures to repudiate this economic package. To protest against these economic measures, the COB has instructed all Central Bank employees to call a 24-hour strike. This strike will be held until the COB decides to enforce other measures in the general meeting scheduled to be held this afternoon at 1430 at the teachers union. [end recording]

Since the Association of Private Banks [Asoban] had announced that all banks would be opening their doors as of 11 February, we asked Asoban President Fernando Bedoya if this decision was going to be carried out:

[Begin recording] Asoban has decided to open the banks, but we are awaiting of course the Central Bank's instructions since when these types of measures are enforced, banks usually work behind closed doors on the first working day. So far we have not received any instructions from the Central Bank and if none are received I believe we shall proceed to open the banks. [end recording]

POLICE READY TO ACT IN CASE OF DISTURBANCES

PY112116 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] All those who disturb public order will be (?repelled) by the Bolivian police according to the strict orders of President Hernan Siles Zuazo. The commanding general of the Bolivian police, (Ibar) Guerrero, said this after a meeting with Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez.

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] If public order is disturbed, we will have to act in defense of the safety of people and their property.

[Reporter] Is there any news regarding the interior of the country?

[Guerrero] Up to now we only know that there is complete calm. Of course, the effects of the new economic measures are still being studied. [end recording]

Gen Guerrero also reported that the police remain in the barracks. He said that the president's orders will be carried out strictly by the Bolivian police with the aid of the municipal police to guarantee the supply of staples.

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] Yes, they are in the barracks, and they are ready to act at any moment in defense of the people and their property.

[Reporter] What about price controls of staples in the markets? How will they be ensured? [sentence indistinct]

[Guerrero] Right now our members are carrying out this mission with tne aid of the municipal police. [end recording]

Shortage of Staples Noted

PY112334 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Excerpt] President Siles Zuazo has instructed the Interior Ministry to mobilize all police officers to ensure compliance with the new official prices for staples. As everyone knows, the government issued new economic measures on 9 February establishing new and supposedly real prices for many staples. However, a great shortage of staples has occurred since the new economic measures were announced causing concern to the authorities and the public. Through Interior Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez, the president has ordered the mobilization of all police officers to control the markets. According to Sanchez, the president has been well informed about the people's reaction to the new government measures.

NEW POLITICAL ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES CANDIDATE

PY111615 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Feb 85 p 7

[Advertisement by the National Renewal Alliance]

[Text] In a solemn ceremony held in the city of La Paz at 1845 on 20 January 1985, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left-One (MNRI-1); the Bolivian Barrientista Party [Partido Barrientista Boliviano], (PBB); the Socialist Democratic Party Youth Movement [PSD]; the Independent Civic Bloc [Bloque Civico Independiente]; and the Peasants and Workers Social Organizations [Organizaciones Sociales Campesinas y Obreras], signed the charter to form the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], which reads as follows:

1. The ARENA is promoting and shall promote the necessary changes under new banners of struggle. These banners will be apart from any sectarian interests, selfish interests that were protected by whichever group was in power and which group did not act in keeping with the ethical and moral standards incumbent upon those who hold public office.

2. ARENA upholds those philosophical principles and doctrines that are part of human culture, but above all it respects the intrinsic characteristics that make up the identity of the Bolivian people.

3. Aware of the deep moral, economic, and financial crisis that burdens the nation, we have adopted an ideology that befits the just aspirations of the Bolivian people. With the hopes of achieving a greater national destiny, this ideology aims to promote national unity, the unity of peasants, workers, miners, the working class, and factory workers, as well as intellectuals and the progressive middle class.

4. We are certain that we must rely on a unique, coherent, and homogenous philosophy, one that is apart from any sectarian or personal interest. We have assumed a party line that is independent of any of the liberal trends within the reactionary right, independent of the plutocracy and any political force holding extreme positions.

5. We categorically assert that it is our duty, as well as that of all patriotic Bolivian men and women, to do our respective duties, considering the exasperating and frustrating times we are experiencing. Consequently, it is also our irrevocable duty to promote the participation of the youth permitting the sought after renewal by national leaders as soon as possible.

6. We note that the task we have imposed upon ourselves, to achieve such noble objectives, is not an easy one. However, we have committed ourselves to the service of the fathlerland which is threatened. We have committed our strength, will, and intellect to open a new path that will help us achieve the development of the nation.

7. We commit ourselves to project the Republic into the future, not merely within the short-term of a single administration, but through the establishment of well-defined government programs that will last throughout time, through national objectives based on new principles and new attitudes and through a national emergency plan that will properly confront the serious situation we are experiencing.

Therefore we have decided to nominate General Humberto Cayoja Riart as presidential candidate. The official proclamation of the president and vice presidential candidates will take place later, in keeping the decisions that the ARENA Executive Board will issue at the proper time. These decisions must be issued in the following order: national program; principles and programs; and most important, the national emergency program.

Signed: Fausto Yugar Cardenas, MNRI-1, first secretary;
Rene Alvarez Puente, chief of the PBB;
Antonio Chiquie Dippo, PSD president;
Jorge Terrazas Alborta, Independent Civic Bloc;
Pedro Santalla Rojas, national executive of the national peasant confederation;
General Humberto Cayoja Riart

PINOCHET ASKS CABINET MINISTERS TO RESIGN

PY112216 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has asked all of his cabinet ministers to resign. The information has been released by the now outgoing minister secretary general of government, Francisco Javier Cuadra.

Cuadra made the announcement at the end of a cabinet meeting held at La Moneda Palace. After reading a brief communique, Cuadra declined to answer questions from the press. The text of the communique states:

At a cabinet meeting held today His Excellency, the president of the Republic asked the cabinet ministers to resign and to remain in their posts until their replacements are appointed. The new ministers will take their oath of office on Tuesday, 12 February 1985.

MDP LEADER IN VALPARAISO, NINE OTHERS ARRESTED

PY062305 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Feb 85

[Text] Ten people have been arrested in Valparaiso and Concepcion. This information has been confirmed by the Interior Ministry. The following persons were arrested in Valparasio: Sergio Vuskovic (Rojo), Carlos Guerrero (Somoza), and (Oscar Romilio Danlevan). The persons arrested in Concepcion are: (Antonio Dei), (Abraham Ramos), (Hugo Tapia), (Lidio Lara), (Carlos Lopez), and (Arturo Bravo). Vuskovic is currently the regional president of the proscribed Popular Democratic Movement [MDP]. All the arrested are at the disposal of the Interior Ministry. It has been reported that they may be banished to distant towns.

CRIMINAL COURT TO INVESTIGATE STUDENT'S DEATH

PY111305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0952 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Santiago, 10 Feb (EFE) -- Government Secretary General Francisco Javier Cuadra said that a court will investigate the causes of the death of student Patricio Manzano, who died yesterday when he was being transferred from a Carabineros station to an emergency medical clinic.

The headquarters of the Carabineros unit in the metropolitan zone disclosed that the details of this incident have been presented to a criminal court judge and that the student's body had been taken to the Forensic Medical Institute to determine the real causes of his death.

For their part, Particio Manzano's relatives announced that they will file a law suit tomorrow against whomever may be found guilty of his death and that they had not been informed about the results of the autopsy since this is secret case information.

In an official report the Carabineros stated that Patricio Manzano started to have respiratory and heart problems while he was sleeping in the gymnasium of the Carabineros station and that he had been attended to by three students in their last year of medical school.

The official report goes on to state that the student died while he was being urgently transferred in an ambulance to a medical clinic.

MANUEL RODRIGUEZ FRONT TO LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE

PY081115 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1755 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA) -- The Chilean Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] guerrilla group has announced here that it will launch a new armed offensive against the regime of Augusto Pinochet as of 27 March, the date on which several political parties and unions have called a national day of protest.

The announcement was submitted to the media in the format of an interview with "Commander Daniel Huerta," who states that the FPMR is made up of "members of the Armed Forces" who provide military training to FPMR militants.

The alleged Commander Huerta noted that "we do not define ourselves as being in favor of socialism". He noted that the group merely struggles for the return of democracy to Chile, but notes that it believes that "the dictator will only be ousted through armed struggle."

He added that the front is made up of commandos and cells and that the majority of its members are young men with no previous political participation, or former members of the Socialist, Communist or Christian Democratic Parties, among others.

Attached to the report of the alleged press conference, there is a detailed list of sabotage actions, armed attacks, and violent actions that have been allegedly carried out by the FPMR, including several blackouts in Chile and the kidnapping of the director of the government newspaper LA NACION on 18 December, for whose release the front demanded that newspapers publish a picture of the journalist with the FPMR flag behind him.

He added that the front is not planning to join any political party and that despite the many appeals issued by the guerrilla group to establish "a patriotic front," there is "no unity" among the forces opposing Pinochet.

As for the source of arms for the FPMR, he said that they are acquired through robberies of gun shops, of the Chilean Armed Forces, and of security guards, and through the "confiscation" of explosives from Chilean mines and quarries.

He added that the Chilean Government has carried out attacks that were later blamed on the FPMR, including an explosion at the Santiago metro which was "carried out with the intention of causing a massacre."

Huerta noted that the majority of FPMR militants have a "Marxist or Christian" background and that "this is the basic structure of our front." He also noted that "this is the first time we have handled weapons."

He noted that Pinochet views the Chilean political issue in strictly military terms and that he views his opponents as "enemies" who must be "annihilated" without giving any consideration to political issues.

He added that this is why the FPMR has decided to establish a group that is capable of militarily confronting the Pinochet government, so as to force him to negotiate since it has been proven that the opposition cannot succeed with political negotiations alone.

After stating that since its creation in December 1983, the FPMR has carried out two armed action plans, the first of which took place between March 1984 and December 1984, Huerta noted that "we are preparing a new offensive for 1985."

The launching of the armed offensive will coincide with a national day of protest that has been called by political and union organizations for 27 March.

According to the communique that was issued, the FPMR carries out its activities from Antofagasta in the north to Puerto Montt in the south. The communique adds that it does not plan to carry out rural guerrilla warfare, only urban guerrilla warfare.

Huerta explained that they are following the example of Manuel Rodriguez, a guerrilla who fought against Spanish troops before Chilean independence and who proceeded to destroy the Spanish Army's communications system.

Moreover, he noted that Pinochet's fall will help the democracies in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay consolidate themselves, and he added that Latin American democratic forces should coordinate their activities.

Huerta also said that the FPMR political program encompasses the ousting of Pinochet, the repeal of the Constitution approved by the Pinochet regime, and the calling of a constituent assembly.

But he noted that "of course we are in favor of a progressive democracy, that is, we believe that there will be no democracy in Chile until the different economic groups and oligarchical groups, as you call them here, are dispersed."

He also charged that these business and financial groups have deposited an amount that represents half of the Chilean foreign debt of $20 billion in foreign banks.

Huerta noted that since corruption has reached such incredible levels, the government has been forced to jail the leaders of some of the most important economic groups in the country for economic crimes.

Moreover, he said that many of the FPMR members were previously members of several political parties and that after Pinochet's fall they may again become active members of these political organizations.

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES INCREASE -- The Central Bank reports that the Chilean international reserves have increased by $33 million, and that this increase took place mainly in December. The report states that at the end of 1984 the country's international reserves totaled $2.055 billion. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p B 2 PY]

GOVERNMENT REACTS TO M-19'S PLANS FOR CONGRESS

Dialogue Commission Head Comments

PA111637 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- German Bula Hoyos, president of the national dialogue commission, has asserted that the commission will not officially attend the open meeting at Los Robles called by the 19 April Movement [M-19]. Bula added that the commission has not adopted a private or official decision, but did not rule out the possibility that some of its members will attend the meeting as observers.

Army Ordered To Block Access

PA111748 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, Feb 11 (AFP) -- The Colombian Government today ordered the Army to block access to a congress starting next Thursday in the Corinto mountain region under the auspices of the extreme-left M-19 guerrilla movement. The M-19, which like other guerrilla groups signed a cease-fire with the government last August, has invited politicians of varying persuasions, as well as journalists, to the congress, to be held from February 14 to 17 in the Los Robles redoubt.

It is thought that during the congress the M-19 movement will announce the creation of a political party to contest the 1986 elections.

"Political proselytising," Interior Minister Jaime Castro said, "cannot be carried out by persons or groups wearing uniforms and bearing arms."

Los Robles is near an encampment besieged by the Army in December, an action that nearly torpedoed the truce.

The government statement said that from today until further notice security forces will forbid access to the area to everyone except local peasants.

Communique on Roadblocks

PA111920 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Communique issued by the Colombian Government in Bogota on 11 February -- monitored in progress]

[Text] ...Our principles. For that reason, to summon a meeting in Los Robles with the presence and participation of persons other than those that have temporarily settled in that area does not serve the cause of peace, nor does it contribute to strengthening a process to which all of us are committed.

Therefore, as of now and until further notice, the security forces, in compliance with their duties, will only allow peasants who reside in the area known as Los Robles to enter that area. The security forces will take the necessary steps to ensure public order and tranquillity for the citizens. The government will continue providing and giving all the rights and guarantees stipulated in our legal framework to the diverse political organizations without exception so they may be able to conduct their legitimate activities.

Army To Detain Armed Persons

PA120127 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0020 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Report by Monica Rodriguez]

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe stated tonight that the Army will detain all armed persons who attempt to enter Los Robles. Gen Vega added that strict control over entry to the village will be exercised through roadblocks that have been erected, and military units have been instructed to search people and demand identification from all who move through the area. The minister said that the troops are already familiar with the peasants and residents of Los Robles, where the M-19 will hold a congress soon.

Gen Vega said that a presumed alliance between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the M-19 to stage terrorist actions is being closely followed, but advised that he will only comment on this after he has specific and confirmed information on those developments.

M-19 COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT MEASURES

PA112313 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2216 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 11 Feb (EFE) -- The high command of the M-19 today described the Colombian Government's decision to prevent the holding of the national congress of that guerrilla organization as "grave and mistaken." The guerrilla group appealed to President Belisario Betancur's "good sense," urging him to revise the decision and permit free participation in the congress, that should begin on 13 February.

"Like any political organization, we have the right to hold our meeting and the government's decision to prevent our congress is grave and mistaken," stated a communique issued in Cali, western Colombia, by Carlos Alonso Lucio on behalf of the M-19 high command.

The spokesman for the guerrilla leaders released this communique a few hours after Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro declared that the holding of the congress was unauthorized and announced measures to restrict to the utmost, attendance at the congress.

"There are enemies of peace that today have apparently won one more battle," stated the M-19 in a message sent to Minister Jaime Castro Castro. "We appeal through you to President Belisario Betancur's good sense," added the message from the Colombian armed group. The M-19 spokesman also indicated that "many of the national and international guests, union leaders, and foreign journalists are already" in Los Robles, site of the group's congress (ninth national conference).

The Colombian Government today announced that it will prevent access to Los Robles, in the mountains of Cauca Department in southwestern Colombia, because "persons or groups wearing uniforms or carrying weapons" cannot undertake "political proselytizing." It also warned that "as of now and until further order, the security forces, in keeping with their duty, will only permit access to the area around Los Robles to the peasants who live there."

Reacting to the government' decision, the M-19 indicated that it is "a revolutionary organization that has made a truce and that has strictly and fully kept the agreements signed with the government." "Like any political organization," it demanded "the right to hold meetings."

The M-19 signed a truce and a cease-fire with the government of President Belisario Betancur on 24 August 1984 after more than 14 years of armed struggle in the country's urban and rural areas.

"Furthermore," the document added, "we believe that this congress is very healthy for the country's peace and democracy at a time when the fate of the Republic is being defined." It added: " Many varied sectors of the country and Latin America have expressed their interest in attending the Los Robles congress." It stated: "Perhaps the pressure applied by a handful of powerful individuals has made the current government turn back in the search for peace without humiliation."

The M-19 communique noted that "a little over 1 month ago," the government agreed that the camp would be located in Los Robles and that this would be a site "open to the country."

LEGISLATOR URGES SUSPENSION OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA111247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0221 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 9 Feb (EFE) -- Colombian legislator Manuel Francisco Becerra, a member of the commission that verifies the cease-fire between the government and the guerrilla groups, has suggested that the "national dialogue" be suspended because kidnappings in the country have increased.

In a message to the high command of the 19 April Movement, M-19, Becerra demands an explanation from the group in which "it openly and clearly states its nonparticipation in acts of blackmail and kidnapping." Becerra's document, addressed to Ivan Marino Ospina, Alvaro Fayad, Carlos Pizarro Gomez-Leon, and Antonio Navarro Wolff, members of the M-19 high command, states that the "national dialogue should be suspended due to a lack of guarantees."

The commission member said that "as a member of the commission that verifies the cease-fire pact, I consider it may duty to say that it has been broken by those who, like you, remain silent regarding blackmail and kidnapping and advocate these acts that are in clear violation of the signed agreements." The legislator, who occupies a seat in the House of Representatives, indicates in his message that "the citizenry thinks and believes the opposite because many Colombians are made victims of blackmail and kidnapping every day by your political-guerrilla movement." Becerra was thus referring to the M-19 members' explanations for these crimes in which they blame dissidents of the guerrilla organization.

The M-19 signed a truce and cease-fire agreement with President Belisario Betancur's government on 24 August 1984. One of the basic points of the pact is the "national dialogue," the forum which seeks to achieve social, political, and economic reforms in the country.

MILITARY DISCOVERS 'HUGE' ARMS CACHE IN CAQUETA

PA111255 Bogota Cadena Radio Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- Military intelligence sources said today that they expect to arrest other individuals in the next few hours in connection with huge arms cache that military forces discovered Caqueta Department. During the operation that was carried out in the past few hours in connection with the arms cache, which was apparently being readied for a large terrorist operation, important members of the M-19 were detained. In addition, this radio station has learned from high-level military sources that violations of the truce, which was agreed upon to achieve the country's overall pacification in the coming months, have continued to occur. The same sources also indicated that instructions have been issued to the peace commission and the commission to verify the agreement to consider the situation and take the necessary measures to have the situation in various areas of the country return to normal.

FEBRES ADDRESSES NATION ON SALARY INCREASE

PA111549 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0058 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Speech to the nation by President Luis Febres Cordero in Quito -- live]

[Text] Despite the silence I had imposed on myself to avoid unnecessary confrontation, I feel it is necessary to speak with you tonight. We assumed the very grave responsibility of receiving a country in ruin, with depleted monetary reserves, with a foreign debt that could not be refinanced, with unemployed Ecuadoran men and women, with a farm sector in recession, and with a demoralizing history of theft and backwardness. In a few months and despite all efforts by extremist sectors as well as the tremendous obstacles left by the past administration, we have managed to restore confidence in our nation, set the production machinery in motion, make the farm sector grow to unexpected levels, which will soon be confirmed by large harvests, and open the way for the exploration and exploitation of new hydrocarbon and mining resources. During this brief period, we have reached firm agreements to refinance the foreign debt under terms that are far better than those achieved by most American countries. We have again made the country's monetary reserves grow and have taken corrective measures to extricate ourselves from the crisis even at the expense of foregoing fickle, easy, and demagogic praise. There is a fundamental reason for my presence in your homes tonight. I contend that it is necessary to rationally compensate the Ecuadoran people following the measures the government has had to adopt. That is why I can assure you that we have responsibly analyzed the salary increases to allow you, the Ecuadoran people, to regain your purchasing power and even improve it within the financial limitations permitted by our economy and without falling into boisterous and absurd demagogy which, very far from helping the workers, harms them and and consequently harms the country.

The attitude of the progressive majority in the National Congress, which was called into special sessions with a specific agenda that included the revising of salaries, has forced me, Ecuadoreans, to deliver this speech. With a desire to fulfill its goals of hatred and retaliation, the progressive majority has gone so far as to illegally try to suspend the special congressional session in order to concentrate on carrying out, in an unconstitutional manner, interpellations, which it could have made during the times established by the Constitution, in order to pursue its obstructionist work. As the country can appreciate, 6 long months since 10 August 1984 have had to pass for us to be able to appoint a new comptroller and a superintendent of corporations. The nation's attorney general and a banking superintendent remain to be appointed. The National Congress has gone so far as to publicly back calls for illegal strikes, something that had never been done before during our turbulent republican life.

While the government is in a position to seriously finance a salary increase adjusted to the country's reality, the opposition, blinded by hatred, has engaged in pointless arguments, trifling with a bill that cannot be financed and that is fraught with preposterous measures that create uncertainty. If it were approved, there would be price speculation and this would destroy our Republic. Specifically, Ecuadoreans, the salary increase that the government is prepared to enact conforms to the following parameters:

In 1979 when our country returned to the de jure, constitutional system, the minimum wage was 2,000 sucres per month. To compensate for the increase in the cost of living, Ecuadoran workers received 250 sucres and a complementary bonus equivalent to 10 percent of the minimum vital wage -- 200 sucres -- which resulted in a total monthly income of 2,450 sucres. If we take into account that the exchange rate of the sucre to the U.S. dollar was 27 sucres to the dollar in 1979, the minimum wage plus the cost of living allowance and the bonus totaled $90.47.

What am I proposing for 1985? A minimum wage of 8,500 sucres and a cost of living adjustment of 1,500 sucres, for a total of 10,000 sucres and a complementary bonus of 600 sucres a month. This represents a total of 11,080 sucres per month. This would be received by Ecuadoran workers as the minimum wage, plus a cost of living allowance, a bonus, and a transportation subsidy. If we consider that the current exchange rate on the free market is 120 sucres to the dollar and divide 11,080 by 120, we will see that the minimum wage that the government is proposing for the Ecuadoran workers, including the cost of living allowance, the bonus, and the transportation subsidy, totals $92.33.

That is to say, we will have restored the purchasing power of the salaries of Ecuadoran workers in comparison to 1979. However, we are also proposing the inclusion [imputabilidad] of increases made on the basis of collective bargaining contracts and salary scales because this is the only way we can safeguard one of the most cherished gains of the labor sector: collective bargaining. In addition, we are proposing extraordinary job stability with a 1-year contract. However, we have not stopped there because we are not only proposing solutions with regard to the minimum wage. We will proportionally adjust the salaries of other Ecuadoran workers, such as those in the areas of handicrafts, farming, and small enterprises within the limits currently allowed by law.

We will act this way, Ecuadoreans. We want to act because this is demanded by your needs and the health of our Republic. We are not responsible for the obvious fact that because of its hatred for the government, the opposition in parliament is preventing us from improving the lot of the Ecuadoran people as much as we can. That is why the bills on popular housing and free medicine for children, which the executive branch submitted to Congress for your benefit, Ecuadoreans, are still pending approval. The executive branch will continue its efforts to reconstruct this country, to comply with and enforce the Constitution, and to safeguard peace and order, which a few seditious people have unsuccessfully tried to disrupt, even to the extent of instituting terrorist measures which the Ecuadoran people have rejected with profound indignation. You, Ecuadoran people, had to know that the government is financially capable of assuming, without destroying our economy, a salary increase to which all Ecuadoreans are entitled.

DELEGATION TO EXPLAIN DEBT RESTRUCTURING ABROAD

PA011600 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Feb 85

[Text] News that an official Ecuadoran mission headed by Finance Minister Francisco Swett is expected on 4 February in London has circulated in financial circles. The stay in the British capital will be the first leg of a tour covering 11 economic centers to explain the restructuring of Ecuador's foreign debt to loan institutions in those countries. The delegation will also include Carlos Julio Emanuel, Central Bank manager, and Alberto Dahik, economic adviser to the president of the Republic. While in London, the group will meet with representatives of British and foreign banks with offices located there. The restructuring project was drafted by the Ecuadoran Government with the approval of the IMF and the international committee of creditor banks. It must be approved by all those banks.

CORRECTION TO OIL PRODUCTION TO INCREASE

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Oil Production To Increase To Offset Price Drop," published in the 8 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page G 1, last paragraph, lines one and two:

...1984 amounted to $1.798 billion; this represented 70... (changing "barrels" to dollars)

VI. 12 Feb 85

U R U G U A Y

PRESIDENT ALVAREZ SUBMITS LETTER OF RESIGNATION

PY112137 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The resignation of Lieutenant General Gregorio Alvarez from the presidency of the Republic has been officially confirmed. The letter which Gen Alvarez handed over today at noon to Dr Hamlet Reyes at Government House, reads as follows:

Montevideo, 11 February 1985,

Mr President of the Council of State, Dr Hamlet Reyes:

I hereby submit to the Council, of which you are the president, my formal and irrevocable resignation from the post of president of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay which I have had the honor of holding since 1 September 1981.

My decision is based, on the one hand, on my firm conviction of having complied fully with the basic objective given to my government: endeavoring that the political and institutional development of the country should strengthen and consolidate its genuinely democratic institutions, a process which culminated in the exemplary election of 25 November 1984.

I also believe that the coexistence of the exceptional executive branch, which I have had the honor of presiding over, would be incongruent and incompatible with the recently elected legislative branch which is to be installed on 15 February.

I have communicated my decision to the high commands of the Armed Forces, which felt that it is neither surprising, untimely, nor unsuitable. Therefore, today I announce my decision to the Council of State, according to law.

Thanking the Council of State for the honor granted to me and for having given me the opportunity to serve the country in such an important post in the struggling period toward institutional normalization, I remain, Mr President, yours truly, Lt Gen Gregorio Alvarez.

It has been learned that all the ministers have also submitted their resignations, but probably most of them will remain in their posts until 28 February to assist Dr Rafael Addiego Bruno, current president of the Supreme Court. Radio El Espectador has learned that only ministers with military rank will leave their cabinet posts.

MANAGUA REPORTS REQUEST ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

PA092127 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] The Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, has requested the mediation of Uruguay's president-elect in order to achieve the liberation of Tupamaro leader Raul Sendic, who has been a prisoner of the military dictatorship for 11 years. In a message sent to President-elect Julio Sanguinetti, TANA says the Raul Sendic has been decorated with TANA's order of Liberators and Heroes of Our America. TANA has also asked Sanguinetti to promote the freedom of all the political prisoners when he assumes the presidency of Uruguay on 1 March.

COSTA RICA

AGREEMENT REACHED ON REFINANCING 1985, 1986 DEBTS

PA111743 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Costa Rica and a committee representing its creditor banks reached an agreement yesterday to refinance the country's debts that expire in 1985 and 1986. According to a report, the agreement forms part of a wide-ranging stabilization and adjustment program aimed at consolidating the progress made to date and laying the groundwork for sustained, long-range economic growth.

The agreement covers new credit totaling $75 million to be disbursed in two installments and keeps in mind the amendments to the previous refinancing agreement as well as renewable credits. Federico Vargas Peralta, minister in charge of the foreign debt, headed the Costa Rican Government delegation to New York.

All economic stabilization actions by the government are backed by a structural adjustment credit totaling $80 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; a $54-million standby credit from the IMF; and the refinancing of a substantial portion of the principal and interest by official creditors, known as the Paris Club; bilateral assistance, especially $190 million from the U.S. Government through the Agency for International Development and credits totaling $75 million from private banks.

The IMF's standby program, World Bank credit, contributions from the Paris Club, and the commercial banks are all interdependent. The terms of the agreement have been distributed to all creditor banks for consideration. Each will contribute credit in proportion to Costa Rica's debts to them.

EL SALVADOR

COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUA CREATED

PA102301 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] The Anti-Communist Committee of Solidarity With Nicaragua has been organized by citizens of the brother country living in El Salvador with the collaboration of many Salvadoran supporters, including businessmen, professionals, and representatives of many unions and organizations.

A helicopter pilot, (Jose Maria Quintero), was honored during the inaugural meeting. He recently died in an accident while flying his combat helicopter over the San Juan River in Nicaraguan territory.

The organization has been established with a coordinator, an advisory council, and three commissions. The dissemination commission will organize conferences, radio and television programs, and lectures, and will issue a bulletin in the near future to explain, reveal, and promote the Nicaraguan people's liberation cause. The solidarity commission will establish, advocate, and strengthen contacts and relations with similar organizations being created in several countries, including Peru, Paraguay, Guatemala, Brazil, and Argentina. The resources commission, obviously will be in charge of supplies and economic aid. For this reason, 50-colon bonds have been issued and food, medicine, and other donations are being accepted.

Anyone interested in contributing to the cause or establishing personal contact with the Anti-Communist Committee of Solidarity With Nicaragua, can contact the organization through Post Box 1296, San Salvador.

U.S. DECORATION TO VIDES, BLANDON CONDEMNED

PA110425 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] The U.S. Government, led by Ronald Reagan, has decided to decorate Generals Eugenio Vides Casanova and Adolfo Onecifero Blandon, both of whom are responsible for numerous war crimes against the Salvadoran people. The high decoration that the U.S. Government has granted to the puppet Army's commanders is Reagan's recognition for services rendered as unconditional pawns and lackeys in the policy of intervention and death in El Salvador. These medals are being bestowed on them for their role as traitors.

Who decorates Vides and Blandon? Those who decorate Vides and Blandon with medals are the enemies of mankind, the same ones who have imposed their economic interests, massacred millions of human beings, and condemned millions of people to die of hunger and misery throughout the world. The hands that decorate Vides and Blandon are covered with the blood of thousands of children assassinated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the atomic bomb. Those who decorate Vides and Blandon are the same ones who today are trying to drown in blood all the peoples struggling for liberty and independence. They are the same ones who for over a century have looted Latin America's natural resources. They are the same ones who have imposed a system of exploitation and poverty. They are the same imperialists who have supported tyrannical governments like that of the Somozas or Stroessner, dictators who, by the way, were decorated by the United States with the same medals to be awarded to Vides and Blandon.

Reagan decorates his most loyal servants in our country. However, the medal which they had prepared for another of their war criminals, Domingo Monterrosa, will not be awarded because he has already dissappeared into the charred trash heap of history.

HONDURAS

EMBASSY COUNTERS CAMPAIGN ON CREM LAND DISPUTE

PA081744 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Embassy in Washington has intiated efforts before the U.S. Congress to counter the pressures of U.S. citizen Temistocles Ramirez in his effort to force Honduras to pay him a $17.5 million indemnification for the occupation of the land being used by the Regional Military Training Center (CREM).

Honduran Ambassador in Washington Juan Agurcia yesterday said at the Presidential Palace that Ramirez has orchestrated a "strong campaign in the U.S. Congress for U.S. Government mediation in his favor," in his claim against the expropriation of the land in the Colon Department. The diplomat said that though there is still a lot of ground to be covered, a settlement is expected soon in the negotiations under way in Honduras and the United States.

The Honduran diplomatic mission in Washington, Agurcia said, "is doing everything possible every day before the U.S. Government and Congress to explain the position of the United States." [as heard]

Agurcia said that Ramirez has not filed a demand against Honduras but against the Reagan administration. He feels the demand should be handled in court or through a settlement acceptable to the parties concerned. The ambassador revealed that for the expropriation of land being used by the CREM to train Salvadoran soldiers, Ramirez is demanding 35 million lempiras, not 34 million as reported by official sources. Agurcia confirmed that Ramirez, in his campaign before Congress to force Honduras to pay the indemnification, is making use of influential lobbyists in congressional circles. In most cases the lobbyists have access to U.S. congressmen's advisers and counsellors, who have much influence on their decisions. The ambassador said some contacts are being made in Congress, but that Honduras does not have the money to pay a lobbyist.

Agurcia insisted that the United States continues to support Honduras in defense and economic matters. In that respect he confirmed that the Reagan administration has asked Congress for additional funds for Honduras, amounting to $321 million.

Agurcia favored the search for a diplomatic and political solution to the Central American crisis but abstained from stating whether he supports the Contadora Group's efforts.

OPPOSITION GROUP STATEMENT OUTLINES OBJECTIVES

PA090245 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Public statement issued by the Democratic and Constitutionalist Opposition Coordinating Board, on 7 February in Tegucigalpa; read by Jorge Arturo Reina -- recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the organizations we represent and interpreting the legitimate interests of the Honduran people, we have held a meeting to make a patriotic call to the entire nation, for the following motives: Convinced that the present and future of Honduras is the responsibility of all Hondurans; concerned over the fact that the current government, which received the support of the majority of the Honduran people, has undertaken or supported actions which seriously jeopardize the country's democratic future; alarmed by the biggest crisis in the history of our country, which has repercussions in the economic, social, cultural, political and moral sectors on the majority of the population; aware that the democratic process which began 4 years ago is threatened, that the nation's high values have been set aside, that the significance of the state's branches have been degraded, that the Constitution has been violated on repeated occasions, that administrative corruption has led to scandals which involve the highest levels of the government while no corrective measures have been implemented nor anyone punished, that the nation's dignity and sovereignty have been seriously compromised, and that the government has implemented controlling measures by dividing all business, political, labor, professional, and student organizations;

Indignant over the constant violations of the most elemental human rights, ranging from economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights to the grave offenses to physical integrity, such as illegal arrests, tortures, disappearance, and the existence of clandestine graves;

Surprised by political sectarianism established as a system by the current administration, in flagrant violation of Article 5 of the Constitution, which states that the government should be based on the principle of participatory democracy -- from which stems the nation -- and which implies the participation of all political sectors in public administration to ensure and strengthen the progress of political stability and national conciliation in Honduras;

And motivated by all these considerations, we cannot but unite our actions to save Honduras from a major deterioration that could lead us to a situation of unforeseen consequences.

In view of this, and above any differences we could have, but the common objective to safeguard the nation's high interests, we agreed on establishing the Democratic and Constitutional Opposition Coordinating Board to obtain the following objectives:

1. To rescue the dignity, sovereignty, and independence of the Republic, which is currently committed to a mistaken domestic policy and to a foreign policy which does not respond to the nation's interests.

2. To promote special conditions that will lead to a democratic electoral process, characterized by: a) absolute respect for the law, b) the people's right to choose their candidates, c) legitimate and proper identification of the people, d) free exercise of the right to vote and respect for the results of the elections, e) alternatives in the exercise of power, no reelection, nor continuism.

3. To prevent the reform to the electoral law which affects the rights of the political parties, and to support the reform that promotes democratic principles within the parties and therefore, the nation's democratization.

4. To have the government immediately stop intervening in the internal affairs of the political parties, labor, and peoples' organizations.

To achieve its objectives, the Democratic and Constitutionalist Opposition Coordinating Board will hold elections and coordinate the necessary actions to ensure within a short time, the Honduran people's awareness of and unity with the most important sectors.

On assuming this historic decision, the democratic forces engaged in this effort declare that we are willing to hold talks with private enterprise, labor and peasant movements, trade unions and professional organizations, and other institutions and sectors interested in peace, authentic democracy, social progress for all, and the nation's independence. We urge these groups to join our movement by assuming a civic and enthusiastic attitude in relation to our proposal.

Finally, we state that if the government of the Republic is willing to make rectification, we will also be willing to participate in a broad dialogue to make our patriotic objectives possible and overcome the dangerous situation the nation is facing.

The members of the Democratic and Constitutionalist Opposition Coordinating Board will maintain their ideological independence and autonomy as the most adequate means to contribute in a unified and massive way to the realization of the civil and democratic objectives that inspire our program of action.

With faith and the best wishes for our fatherland, we sign this document in Tegucigalpa on 7 February 1985.

Total unity for the nation's salvation.

[Signed] Adan Palacios, Efrain Diaz Arriaga, and Hernan Corrales Padilla, for the Christian Democratic Party of Honduras; Rafael Leonardo Callejas, Mario Rivera Lopez, Nicolas Cruz Torres, and Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, for the National Party; Enrique Aguilar Paz and Carlos Sosa Cuellos, for the National Innovation and Unity Party; Carlos Roberto Reina, Armando Aguilar Cruz, and Jorge Arturo Reina, for the Liberal Revolutionary Democratic Movement

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA URGES U.S. TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

PA112000 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic, insisted last weekend that the United States needs to resume the negotiations the two countries had been carrying out in the port of Manzanillo.

During a meeting with three Democratic congressmen, who will end a 3-day visit to Nicaragua today, Commander Ortega said that that his government is maintaining its stand in defense of peace, which has been restated on previous occasions.

In addition, during a meeting with 17 U.S. journalists visiting Managua, the head of state voiced his concern over pressure by Washington to make the Congress approve a $14-million financial package for the counterrevolutionaries who are murdering our people.

Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of Nicaragua, pointed out: This continues a serious obstacle in the effort to find a peaceful solution for Central America.

BORGE: U.S. PLANNING TO OCCUPY NORTHERN REGION

PA111621 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] The U.S. Government is planning to occupy the northern region of Nicaragua to continue carrying out its crimes and to promote an intervention in our country. This charge was made by Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, interior minister, in a meeting held yesterday with producers of Jinotega and Matagalpa.

[Begin recording] They are carrying out armed counterrevolutionary activity to occupy these regions of the country, which are the perfect and ideal regions for a people's resistance in the event of direct U.S. intervention. If the United States were to intervene, where would the main resistance forces against that aggression be located if not precisely in these mountains? Therefore, the activity of the armed counterrevolution is aimed at preventing our people from forming a prolonged resistance at a given moment in the face of an aggression. This means that counterrevolutionary activity is not limited to burning a few farms or murdering some citizens, but creating conditions for a direct U.S. intervention.

You can't imagine what a U.S. direct intervention would be like. The crimes committed by the counterrevolution would be a shadow, a [word indistinct], and a caricature compared to the crimes that would be committed by the imperialist forces if they invaded Nicaragua. We would have to pay the price of the country's total destruction and hundreds and perhaps millions of victims in the face of an aggression.

Of course, the first thing we should do is resist foreign aggression. Would any of you want to be the slave of a foreign country? Would you allow your children, your wives, and your relatives to live in an enslaved society? What would the interventionists do if they didn't rape the women, murder your children, and destroy everything? For this reason, we say that the first thing that we must do is resist until death, until the last drop of blood, in the face of a foreign aggression. [end recording]

In another part of his speech, Borge said that it is not fair for members of the Armed Forces to commit abuses. These irregularities will bring punishment, Commander Borge added.

[Begin recording] It is not fair that abuses such as those committed in the past should continue. These are abuses committed by our own forces. I believe that we must be the first to admit that many abuses against the peasant population have been committed. I think that it must be courageously admitted that our forces have even committed crimes against the peasants. It would not be honest to keep quiet about these abuses. It is not correct that our forces occupy Catholic chapels in the rural areas against the peasants' will. I think that it is our duty to see that no one, state producers, or members of the Army or the Interior Ministry, forcibly occupies the chapels where people pray. [applause]

It is not fair for the authorities to support crime against certain people because many times there are certain people who unjustly accuse peasants of being counterrevolutionaries in order to please selfish demands or resolve personal conflicts. This is not fair. [applause] [end recording]

U.S. DOCUMENT ON SOVIET EFFORTS IN REGION NOTED

PA111614 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] New York -- In a supreme effort to convince Congress to approve the Reagan administration's aid plan for Central America, the White House has announced that it will soon publish an alleged white paper in which it tries to ascertain that the Soviet Union is looking for a way to make this region a satellite of the Eastern bloc.

The paper was drafted on the basis of documents seized by the U.S. Government during the highly criticized invasion of Grenada in 1983. In its preface, U.S. Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger maintains that Cuba and Nicaragua are already examples of that Soviet strategy planned for the other countries in the region. This document assumes that Nicaragua is already a virtual Soviet satellite and that El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia seem to be Cuba's priority targets for now.

This was disclosed in the latest issue of the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES. A commentary warns that Reagan must speed up his announced $1.2 billion in aid for Central America unless he wants to lose his influence in the region and watch how the bases for terrorist acts against the United States increase under his own nose.

'TEXT' OF NOTE TO COSTA RICA ON ARDE ACTIVITIES

PA111843 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1210 GMT 11 Feb 85

["Text" of note sent to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto; date not given]

[Text] On 8 February, Jose Davila Membreno, a leader of the mercenary military organization the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, held a press conference in San Jose, announcing that a helicopter provided to that terrorist organization by the U.S. Government in its illegal war against Nicaragua had crashed in Costa Rica. According to available information made public, two ARDE mercenaries were traveling aboard the helicopter. One of them, who was identified as Jose Maria Quintero (Cerda), died when the helicopter crashed. Mercenary (Felix Sam) Jarquin was injured and later rescued by Costa Rican authorities and hospitalized in Quesada.

These actions once again show that the mercenary military organizations at the service of the U.S. Government openly use Costa Rican territory for illicit activities, which casts doubts on the Costa Rican proclamation of neutrality and affects basic principles of international law, especially those that force states not to permit actions that harm the sovereignty and independence of other states on their territory.

These activities, added to the unusual press conference held on 31 January by the leaders of the terrorist organization ARDE, oblige the Costa Rican Government in the eyes of the international community to adopt all of the measures called for by international law to stop these illegal actions that directly oppose the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve pacification and therefore constitute an obstacle to the effective reestablishment of peace and harmonious coexistence among the Central American states.

Furthermore, the Nicaraguan Government wishes to refer with alarm to reliable information in its possession to the effect that mercenary leader Eden Pastora is allegedly completing the construction of three landing strips for light aircraft in Costa Rican territory and in the area of Guanacaste to be used for drug trafficking. According to these reports, the purpose of these drug trafficking activities is to obtain the financing needed for the armed activities of the mercenary groups that operate in Costa Rica in view of the U.S. Congress refusal to approve new budget allocations with which to continue the war of aggression that the U.S. Administration has been waging against our people.

On making its most formal denunciation of these plans, which we do not hesitate to describe as immoral, the Nicaraguan Government feels that it is up to the Costa Rican Government to take energetic and determined action to prevent their materialization, as drug trafficking is a crime against mankind which entails the obligation to cooperate with the international community to punish and eradicate it, all the more so when this time the idea is to finance the death of thousands of Nicaraguans through this activity.

The government also urgently reiterates its appeal to the Costa Rican Government to act maturely and responsibly in resolving existing problems. To this end, it is indispensable that the support structures of the mercenary armed organizations operating in Costa Rica be immediately dismantled and that their members be captured and definitively expelled from Costa Rican territory, as determined by international law.

The Nicaraguan Government also reiterates its view, expressed in its note (DAJ) [not further explained] 017 of 7 February 1985, that the Costa Rican Government's decision to consider the adoption of sanctions against the leaders of military organizations was viewed as a positive advance, especially if this constitutes the beginning of new measures intended to preserve Costa Rica's proclamation of neutrality in view of the unjust and illegal war the United States is waging against our people.

WHEELOCK DISCUSSES PRODUCTION PRIORITIES, HARVESTS

PA101934 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] The production of basic staples and agro-exports will receive priority treatment within the revolutionary government's policy to increase production levels. Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, made this statement yesterday. Wheelock, who is also a member of the FSLN directorate, said that the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform [Midinra] is implementing a settlement program to benefit producers in war zones who are firmly determined to produce.

We now present an interview with Commander Jaime Wheelock in which he reports on the measures to be implemented by Midinra to support the economic measures announced by the FSLN National Directorate.

[Begin recording, broadcast in progress] [Wheelock] ...This involves the productive sector directly linked to the production of food and especially food needed by our country's combatants. This is why we have made the production of basic grains by [words indistinct] a priority. Second, agro-export products will be promoted and supported. Therefore, we will [words indistinct] to allow producers to have access to foreign currency to bring about greater supply and productivity. In sum, food comes first and second would be...

[Reporter, interrupting] What about those producers in war zones who have encountered difficulties as a result of constant counterrevolutioanry attacks? Does Midinra have any plans to relocate them to other zones where those who have the determination to produce can do so?

[Wheelock] We are implementing a settlement program and a number of other fiscal, economic, and financial measures to protect affected producers. In fact, there will be a very important meeting tomorrow gathering more than 600 small, medium, as well as some large producers who have been affected by the counterrevolution. We will listen to their main problems. Of course, the government will do all that is possible to help them.

[Reporter] How is the coffee harvest going? What are the figures to date? How much has been harvested?

[Wheelock] Well, to date we have secured nearly 56 percent of the harvest throughout the country. We hope to harvest another 30 percent in February and to finish harvesting in March; we hope to have harvested 93 percent of our objective which is approximately 1 million quintals. In addition, and with some difficulties, the cotton harvest is continuing. We have observed a normalization of that activity in the past few days. We have encountered some natural obstacles such as strong winds and a shortage of workers in Managua and the eastern part of the country. We have also encountered problems in Leon. Nevertheless, the harvest continues. We have quality cotton this year [words indistinct]. However, I would say that despite our situation, this is actually an acceptable harvest. [end recording]

DEPUTIES PROTEST CONDUCT OF ASSEMBLY DEBATE

PA091451 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] We have received the following document:

Managua, 6 February 1985
Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez
President of the National Assembly
Managua

Dear Mr President: As representatives to the National Assembly elected by the Nicaraguan people, we allow ourselves to protest most energetically over the arbitrary conduct of the debates in today's session. We are referring to the violation of Article 31, Paragraph 2, [regulation not specified] which states that the presidency may interrupt any deputy who has the floor should he stray from the issue at hand or violate the corresponding order. Concerning the case of Deputy Herty Lewites totally out of order interjection and the ill-intentioned observation by Dr Daniel Nunez, both members of the Sandinist bloc, we wish to make the following observations:

1. Mr Lewites' interjection was out of order as he had stated beforehand that he would not comment on the subject under discussion. The presidency consented to this.

2. For his part, Mr Nunez said that all those proposing that the bill be submitted to a commission were, according to him, responding to the dictates of the U.S. Embassy.

We feel that such statements neither elevate our Assembly to the level it deserves nor contribute healthy opinions to the debates, which should be characterized by decorous behavior without falling into either slander or personal insults. As you know, several deputies delivered addresses and maintained serene and objective positions on the bill without making accusations or personal attacks.

The National Assembly should be an effectively democratic and serious forum. To achieve this, it is necessary to conduct the debates on the basis of equity and justice, without party biases.

Mr President, we must make a vehement exhortation so that these excesses in parliamentary debates are corrected.

On behalf of our respective parliamentary delegations, the undersigned formally notify you of the reason for our withdrawal from the 6 February session in protest over this behavior.

Without further remarks at this point and awaiting a prompt response, we remain fraternally yours,

[Signed] Mauricio Diaz D., parliamentary delegation of the Popular Social Christian Party.

Dr Eduardo Molina P., parliamentary delegation of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua

Dr Virgilio Godoy R., parliamentary delegation of the Independent Liberal Party

Luis Sanchez S., parliamentary delegation of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party

Allan Zambrana S., parliamentary delegation of the Communist Party of Nicaragua

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13 CONTRAS DESERT FDN, ACCEPT AMNESTY

PA102107 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] More Nicaraguans deserting from the self-styled counterrevolutionary Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] are taking advantage of the amnesty law in Las Segovias, near the Honduran border. Among the 13 citizens who took advantage of the amnesty law are: Heleno Martinez Sanchez, alias Quetzal; Santo Martinez Sanchez, alias Conejo; and Marcos Martinez, alias Diamante. These Nicaraguans, who turned themselves over to the Sandinist Nicaraguans, were members of the self-styled Nicarao regional commando unit.

The revolutionary government decreed the amnesty law to bring peace to the Nicaraguan people, who are constantly harrassed by mercenary groups financed by the Reagan administration.

H. ORTEGA PLANS TO INCREASE TRAINING, RESERVES

PA120402 Paris AFP in Spanish 0320 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (AFP) -- Defense Minister Humberto Ortega has announced that this year the Sandinist Army will intensify military recruiting and training because no political solution is in sight for the regional crisis. During an appearance before the government cabinet, which was broadcast by the state television this Monday, Ortega accused the Reagan administration of "boycotting" the efforts for a peaceful Central American solution.

He added that more than 30,000 youths who are in the Patriotic Military Service (SMP) are stationed in the mountains of the north and in the central, south, and Atlantic coast regions of the country, where more than 10,000 rebel guerrillas operate. He announced that thousands of additional youths will be recruited during the first semester of this year "to smash the counterrevolution, which is at the point of having its back broken." He added: "The war we are waging against the mercenary groups armed and financed by the United States is being won by us."

However, he warned that this situation could increase the danger of a direct invasion by U.S. troops "at a time when the United States is closing the channels of negotiations and a political solution seems unlikely." In this respect, Ortega accused the U.S. Administration of "boycotting" the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, breaking off the bilateral dialogue that was being held in the Mexico, and "sabotaging" the negotiations under way with the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity, a Miskito rebel organization.

Ortega appealed to the people to join the infantry reserve battalions, the people's militias, and the civil defense units en masse.

He said that as long as the war lasts, the country can only maintain a "subsistence economy" and cannot undertake the reconstruction tasks proposed 5 years ago when the Somoza dictatorship was overthrown.

The defense minister said that during the second semester a campaign will begin to recruit and register citizens between the ages of 25 and 30 for military reserve training. Since the military service law went into effect in September 1983 only youths between the ages of 17 and 23 had been inducted into the Army for a 2-year period.

Ortega warned that in case of a military invasion by the United States, the Nicaraguan people are capable of "halting and resisting the enemy" even in the cities and the capital. In this respect, he said that "the war of aggression" has produced thousands of youths who could be part of "the best armies of the world."

In the last 3 years armed clashes have caused the deaths of more than 10,000 Nicaraguans and many more were wounded and mutilated, including government soldiers, guerrillas, and civilians.

HEALTH MINISTER GUIDO PRAISES SOVIET AID

PA090426 Managua Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] A friend that lends a hand during difficult times is a real friend and that is what the Soviet Union has always been, Nicaraguan Health Minister Lea Guido said during an interview on Soviet television.

Minister Guido said that the USSR has provided immeasurable assistance to Nicaragua in the areas of health, production, education, and others. For example, she mentioned that during the difficult times of the May 1982 floods the USSR sent a complete hospital, with equipment and doctors, to help the people. The hospital they sent is currently operating in Chinandega where the doctors and health personnel work under difficult conditions because they must provide their services in tents.

The minister added that the USSR has also cooperated by supplying materials for medical laboratories and other industries, large amounts of medicine, tools for workers, and many other things, in fact, so many things that it would take too long to mention them all.

The minister stressed that the USSR's aid, coming at a time when imperialism attacks with greater strength, is very important. A real friend lends a hand at difficult times, such as those Nicaragua is currently facing. While imperialism attacks the people, the Soviet people and government send us medicine and surgical instruments.

SOVIET SHIP BRINGS SUPPLIES FROM FRANCE, VENEZUELA

PA082216 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Corinto, Nicaragua (TASS) -- Dry cargo ship Olga Ulyanova, registered with the Baltic Naval Company, docked at this Nicaraguan port on the Pacific coast for the first time. The ship brought medicine sent by the French solidarity committees with Nicaragua for the Sandinist People's Army fighters struggling against the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. It also brought construction materials that the Nicaraguan people need so much to rebuild their economy from Venezuela.

PASTORA, CRUZ, JOAQUIN CHAMORRO DISCUSS UNITY

PA110205 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] We are not opposed to unity; there should be unity to support the armed struggle, Commander Eden Pastora Gomez has said. Commander Eden Pastora Gomez, founder and leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, yesterday told the Costa Rican station Radio Impacto from Miami that there should be unity among all of the forces fighting the Managua totalitarian regime, but this unity should be based on an ideological program with political arrangements, and not on politicking. He said there should be a serious and formal political and military unity. One cannot hold a dialogue with the communists, the commander said. He added:

[Begin recording] I am aware of talks but not of agreements as of yet. I participated in talks with Arturo Cruz and Adolfo Calero [leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force -- FDN]. I told them that political unity should be reached to support the armed struggle. Those of us who have been in the mountains fighting with rifles for democracy, freedom, and peace for Nicaraguans have repeatedly supported political projects. The latest one was our support for the Coordinating Board when it nominated Arturo Cruz as its candidate. We supported Arturo Cruz. We think that it is more than obvious that political agreements and a negotiated solution cannot be reached with communists. That is what we would have liked to have done to avoid so much bloodshed. They have shown that they do not want political solutions. They call us imperialist agents and mercenaries. They have been holding talks with the Americans in Manzanillo behind the backs of the Nicaraguan people and those of us who are fighting.

We propose a serious and formal political and military unity on the basis of agreements that can be and will be fulfilled. We propose political arrangements, not politicking. We propose that the 7,000 men who are in southern and eastern Nicaragua be recognized as the real ARDE force. We propose a change in the attitudes of the other organizations. We propose that we be given back the helicopters, airplanes, and military supplies that are not the property of Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo [leader of an ARDE faction], or Eden Pastora. They belong to the 7,000 fighters in southern and eastern Nicaragua.

We propose an ideological program that will guarantee that we move toward democracy and that freedom is respected so that the Nicaraguans can live in peace. We propose serious talks and that there be no talk about unity agreements when in truth no fundamental agreements have been reached. We propose these things for the good of our people because if we do otherwise, we are just playing into the hands of the Managua communists.

(?I wanted) to mention that due to our haste to evacuate the 120 wounded we have on the firing line in Rio Escondido, Nueva Guinea, El Almendro, [name indistinct], our helicopter crashed, killing the pilot. He was our companero. This was a sad loss for the Nicaraguan people.

We [words indistinct] change in attitude towards us. We propose to the FDN that we see international communism as our sole enemy, which now misgoverns, persecutes, imprisons, and kills our people. We propose that it stop seeing those of us who fight in Nicaragua's south and east as its enemy.

This is our real position. We are not warmongers. We want peace. We have demonstrated this 1 and 1/2 years after our statement in search of political solutions. We have demonstrated this 1 year after we left the Nicaraguan Government party. We have demonstrated this after 2 years of internal struggle within the party, government, and the country. We exhausted all resources and we had only one path left: the specter of war, the painful war to which the political errors and deviations of the FSLN National Directorate led us.

This is the situation that everyone must know. We are united. We are an alliance: ARDE. Nevertheless, we support the unity and the alliance of all of the forces that struggle against communism in Nicaragua but from honorable, legitimate, serious, and responsible positions so as to reach true alliances. We want a political and military alliance in support of the armed struggle. I repeat [words indistinct]. I support the unity of all the forces.

I have always struggled for that unity. That is why I went to Alfonso Robelo's house to discuss unity and alliances five times. That is why Alfonso Robelo never had to come to my house to discuss these things. I went seven times to the house of Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro [anti-Sandinist leader] in search of the unity and the alliance of all Nicaraguans against communism. "El Negro" Chamorro never had to come to my house to speak about these things. In search of the unity and alliance of all the forces that opposes Managua's international communism, I went to Honduras five times to clandestinely speak with (Carlos Jose Francisco Cardenal), a friend [word indistinct] Alfonso Robelo; I spoke with Colonel (Caceres), with Colonel [name indistinct]; I spoke with (Arana); I spoke with many of the FDN in search of the peace and unity of all Nicaraguans. I spoke with General Alvarez Martinez [former Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief] two or three times. The last time he treated me despicably. He humiliated me. I have done what my conscience dictated in search of unity.

We formed ARDE [words indistinct] to search for the unity, alliance, and peace of the Nicaraguans. In search for that unity, I presented to the FDN, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Government, and the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement serious proposals for unity. They have never presented a serious plan for unity to me. They have always wanted us to join the FDN. [Words indistinct] the unity of all Nicaraguans who struggle for democracy, freedom, and peace. The Nicaraguan people and all the world's peoples should know all these things. It is this attitude and the way we are treated that prevents unity.

Unity has not only been close, it had been obtained. There had been unity among six of the organizations but powerful interests, interests here in the United States, specifically the State Department, which seeks negotiated political solutions and uses those of us in northern and southern Nicaragua as a means of pressure, have prevented the unity of the north and south. When there was unity in the south and it was emerging as a belligerent force in the development of the war, powerful interests worked so that there would be no unity in the south.

There is something that goes deeper in all of this. There is a pronegotiation sector in the United States that wants to coexist with international communism. This is what has prevented the unity of the north and south. Look, everyone knows that it had been decided that the north would be dismantled on 12 December. Everyone knew that the north would be (?finished) on 12 December. Do you know why they did not dismantle it? Because morally they could not. They were unable to dismantle it due to political (?reasons). You know what these political (?reasons) were? The existence of ARDE in the south. There were 7,000 fighters in the south. They could not dismantle the FDN if the south (?was free). The FDN continues to exist in the north because they have not been able to destroy the south. They have tried to do this politically, physically, and militarily.

When we have been closer to unity, alliance, and convergence, powerful interests alien to the Nicaraguans forced the removal of our helicopters, planes, military supplies, boats, and so on to [words indistinct] within our spirit in order to prevent unity. That is why I have told the companeros not to listen to siren songs and not to do what they say; instead, we should remain united, we should remain embraced, with a single fist around an ideological program to confront the ideological program of the Marxist-Leninists. All of this falls within a political plan to destroy the south just as they sought to dismantle the north in order to be able to fulfill the Manzanillo agreements. [end recording]

Asked about President Ronald Reagan's attitude toward the Central American problem, Commander Pastora indicated that the U.S. President is completely isolated and that this has negative repercussions on those who fight the Managua totalitarian regime with weapons in hand. He then added:

[Begin recording] We see that President Ronald Reagan is alone in taking this attitude. The U.S. President is alone in his policy. His attitude goes against the policy of the State Department, the Congress, the liberal press in this country, the intellectuals, power circles such as those of Kissinger and Kennedy, and the interests that want negotiated solutions and coexistence with international communism. I see that the U.S. President is alone in support his policy. I am concerned about this because it has negative repercussions on those of us who fight for freedom and democracy in Nicaragua and Central America.

I am concerned about Cuba's policy. Cuba states in Nicaragua that capitalism is not incompatible with socialism. I am concerned about Fidel Castro's policy when he says that the U.S. President has the opportunity to go down in history as the president of U.S. peace. I am concerned when Fidel Castro calls the U.S. bishops and appoints commissions in Cuba to study the problems of Catholics in Cuba.

I am concerned when Fidel Castro sends his proconsul Abreu [member of the America Department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee] to Costa Rica to resolve the problem between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. A Cuban is not the one who should resolve the problems between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Nicaraguans and the Costa Ricans are the ones who should do so. I am concerned about this policy of Fidel Castro, which we call the policy of (?opium) because [words indistinct] coexistence between communism and the democratic forces. Communism and the democratic forces are incompatible because communism is in essence dictatorial and totalitarian. We democrats are always going to fight the dictatorial systems. Just as in the past we fought against the Somoza dictatorship, we are now going to fight the Nicaraguan communist dictatorship. [end recording]

Asked whether preliminary talks for unity would continue to be held, Commander Pastora said:

[Begin recording] I am willing to continue talking with Arturo Cruz and Adolfo Calero. We will also speak with Alfonso Robelo. We will speak with the devil if necessary to reach unity and alliances among all of the forces that oppose the Managua dictatorial government and seek freedom, democracy, and peace for all Nicaraguans.

We are just the opposite of what they say we are. They have distorted our image. We have always struggled for the unity of all Nicaraguans and they have described us as being opposed to unity. This is part of the campaign to destroy the south. The independence of the south and the survival of the guerrilla warfare without the aid of foreign forces have led to the failure of the Manzanillo negotiations and they also make incompatible the coexistence of international communism and Marxism-Leninism with the Nicaraguan democratic forces. We have changed our slogan of "Free Fatherland or Death" to "Free Fatherland or Kill." [end recording]

When Commander Pastora was asked what will happen to the ARDE forces that fight in Nicaraguan's south, central, and Atlantic regions after 10 months of not receiving any substantial economic or military aid, he said:

[Begin recording] The same thing that took place during these 10 months will reoccur. The unity has already occurred. (?I am talking) of facts. Isn't (?unity) the alliance among Robelo, "El Negro" Chamorro, Colonel Bermudez, and Adolfo Calero? Isn't the alliance that is now being sought the alliance that was reached 6 months ago in Panama? We will continue to do the same thing that we have been doing in the past 10 or 12 months since they cut off the aid, since they blocked the aid. We will continue the war with the people's support. We will continue the war as we have been doing with the support of the peasant of [name indistinct], Punta Gorda, Nueva Guinea, El Almendro, Rio Escondido, Grande de Matagalpa River, and El Corozo in Boaco. We will continue the war with the support of our people.

The best thing would be if we all united under a single ideological political program, with a single military leadership, with the same (?slogans) and the same objectives, fighting against the same enemy. I totally agree with this, but powerful outside forces have prevented this because they want to treat us like puppets and we are not going to be puppets. If they want allies, they will have good allies, but never servants. We are not going to accept foreign masters and we are not going to sell out the fatherland as Somoza did in the past and as the communists are doing today. We are nationalists because we are Sandinists. We are democrats because we are Sandinists. We are fighting because we are revolutionary, democratic, Sandinist, and anti-imperialist. [end recording]

Asked if he would accept aid from President Reagan, Commander Pastora said:

[Begin recording] I am willing to ask for help from anyone who wants to give it without condition, on the basis of honorable positions, without conditions that violate the people's dignity. If my mother is dying and she needs medicine, I will accept it from anywhere as long as her life is saved. Our homeland, Nicaragua, is ill. There is no freedom. The people are dying in the prisons, they are dying (?from the torture) and in the battlefields. We have to save the homeland with help from wherever it may come without conditions. [end recording]

Arturo Cruz, leader of the civic opposition against the Managua mismanagement, was also interviewed by San Jose's Radio Impacto. The interview centered on the search for unity by the forces fighting against the Managua dictatorial regime. These were his remarks:

[Begin recording] Eden Pastora should be a part of the group of citizens to sign the document we have in mind. I am convinced that he will sign the document; I attended meetings with Pastora and Adolfo Calero and I have held very positive conversations with him. I do not think that Eden will stay away. He must sign. Moreover, he is a patriot; I know he is. Thus far, we have held preparatory meetings in which Eden Pastora, Adolfo Calero, Alfonso Robelo, and I participated. Other individuals have also participated, but these were preparatory meetings. We have contacted various national sectors and, logically, there must be a general meeting to discuss the matter in depthbefore signing the document, which almost certainly we will sign.

All of the contacts we have made with the FSLN thus far have been ignored. The only thing that distinguishes us from the FSLN is that for the first time everything will be said. This is also the last time we will try to meet with the FSLN. It is not that we are giving the FSLN an ultimatum or declaring war on them, but we are asking them to reflect on their tremendous historical responsibility for the last time. If the FSLN does not change the revolution's course, Nicaragua and Central America will be condemned to a truly chaotic situation. I do not see how Nicaraguans and Central Americans who are aware of our obligations with our Central American brothers [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, former codirector of the newspaper LA PRENSA, also participated in South American [as heard] Radio Impacto's interview with Commander Eden Pastora and Dr Arturo Cruz. His opinion of the Nicaraguan people's unity against the Managua communists was expressed as follows:

[Begin recording] We are going through a logical phase in the struggle for democracy in Nicaragua and I think that to achieve a broad front, a truly broad front as Adolfo Calero says, ARDE, directed by Eden Pastora, should be included. I think it is a fundamental step so that we can represent a united opposition before the FSLN and a democratic project to take the country toward a civic solution. If the FSLN does not accept the proposal made by the Nicaraguan political opposition, it would really be strengthening the (?possibility) of war. [end recording]

ARDE SAYS CASTRO GUIDING GOVERNMENT POLICIES

PA081619 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] The [words indistinct] of Fidel Castro in the Urbina Lara case. Who gives the orders in Nicaragua? The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, and all Nicaraguans know perfectly well that the person holding the reins of power in our homeland is Fidel Castro, the interventionist himself.

The excessively naive democracies that have accepted, consciously or unconsciously, that the nine shine by their own light have received a very clear answer; The Cuban dictator and the master of Managua's nine tyrants has shown his face on behalf of his nine puppets when he ordered them to deliver Jose Manuel Urbina Lara to the Contadora Group. There are 15,000 Castroite mercenaries in our land killing our people. As if this weren't enough, Fidel Castro is running the domestic and foreign policy of Nicaragua. This has a name: intervention. This intervention is what ARDE is fighting with weapons in hand.

BRIEFS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTORATE -- The businessmen's plenum last night reelected their directorate, but a new president was elected. Approximately 200 businessmen met at the Camino Real Hotel to discuss the problems in their sector. The businessmen's assembly quickly achieved a consensus of viewpoints regarding the capacity and responsibility of their directorate members. All agreed on the need to maintain unity and face the difficult situation which prevails in the organization. The new directorate of the Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua is comprised as follows: (Justo Leon Ruiz), president; Guillermo Quant, vice president; Alberto Lacayo Arguello, ratified as secretary; Juan Carlos Morales, ratified as treasurer; Frank Ley, assistant treasurer; Juan Lopez, sergeant at arms. Antonio Leiva, who was president for 4 years, is now first member; Alejandro Bermudez, former vice president, second member; Jose Abohasen, third member, Jorge Silva, fourth member. No one was elected as fifth member. Juan Bautista Tellez was elected assistant secretary; Orestes Romero Rojas and Manuel Bermudez Noguera were ratified as manager and assistant manager of the chamber. [Text] [Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 85 PA]

ASSEMBLY THIRD SECRETARY -- Private producer Juan Tijerino, from Boaco, was elected third secretary of the National Assembly's board of directors yesterday. [Excerpt] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Feb 85 p 4 PA]

BANANA EXPORTS -- The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform has reported that last year Nicaragua exported more than 4.2 million boxes of bananas. This netted $34 million and made this fruit the fourth most important export product of the country. According to ANN, this production represents a complete recovery after a plague caused serious damage to production in 1983. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Feb 85 PA]

CASTRO ON U.S. TIES IN WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW

PA111718 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has said that an improvement in Cuban-U.S. relations will never be possible under the assumption that the Caribbean island will renounce its moral principles, ideology, and spirit of solidarity.

During an interview he recently granted to three WASHINGTON POST reporters, Fidel Castro said that Cuba has no objections to exchanging views on any problem at anytime.

The top Cuban leader described the immigration agreement that was recently signed by Cuba and the United States as satisfactory and constructive. He mentioned the following areas as possible topics for joint analyses in the future: the cooperation between the two coast guards in rescue operations of ships and people, the struggle against hijackings, an eventual agreement on radio interference, and the implementation of a previously signed fishing agreement.

Fidel Castro recalled that economic measures, the blockade, and pressures against Cuba and nations trading with our country have intensified throughout Ronald Reagan's presidency.

As for continuing U.S. military threats, the Cuban head of state explained that in view of this we have multiplied our forces several times to the extent that we have now become an unconquerable and invulnerable nation. He added: We have developed our ideas around the defense concept to such an extent that any military adventure against Cuba is doomed to failure. The Cuban president also voiced his conviction to the three WASHINGTON POST reporters that a solution to the Central American crisis is possible through the Contadora Group's efforts and said that in the long run Washington must develop new concepts and ideas regarding its relations with Latin America. He stressed: It is an absurd idea to intervene in reaction to any social change. Regarding this, Fidel Castro said that the United States hopes to topple the Nicaraguan Government through economic asphyxiation and the actions of counterrevolutionary groups supported by U.S. authorities. However, he pointed out, the Nicaraguan Government has the support of a majority of the people. He added: The attempt to neutralize and disarm each Sandinist one by one is an impossible task for an occupation army.

As for El Salvador, Fidel Castro advocated an effort to achieve a political solution. He said that the FMLN has clearly voiced its willingness to negotiate despite its strength on the battlefield.

As for southern Africa, he said that if an agreement be reached there, the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from the People's Republic of Angola is a possibility. However, part of the Cuban troops would stay in northern and central Angola. This would be discussed and agreed upon between the Governments of Cuba and Angola.

During the interview granted to THE WASHINGTON POST, the top Cuban leader once again rejected U.S. propaganda trying to link our country to drug trafficking activities. In addition, he commented on the efforts being carried out by Cuba regarding the economy and savings. He said: We must prevent the irresponsible waste of resources and dedicate our efforts to solving key development problems.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES CAMBODIA'S HUN SEN

BK101139 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, has recently sent a message of congratulations to Comrade Hun Sen on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK]. The message stressed:

On behalf of the Cuban Government and people, I would like to express warmest congratualtions to you on your appointment as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK. On this important occasion, I reiterate our support for the just struggle waged by the Cambodian people. I wish you more and greater successes in the discharge of your new responsibility.

CASTRO THANK YOU MESSAGE TO LAO LEADERS NOTED

BK071319 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Vientiane, February 7 (KPL) -- Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Souphanouvong, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, recently received a message of thanks from Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Castro who is also president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on behalf of the Cuban party, government and people, thanked the Lao side for its fraternal feelings conveyed to the Cuban leaders on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. Castro also expressed satisfaction over development of the bilateral relations of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of Cuba and Laos.

REAGAN ADDRESS, NICARAGUAN REACTION NOTED

FL071240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Nicaragua has energetically rejected the new string of accusations formulated by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who said in Washington that he will continue waging what he called his covert war against the Sandinist government. The President told a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives that congressional support for U.S. military aid to Central America is essential.

Reagan described the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries as freedom fighters, saying that U.S. intervention in Nicaraguan internal affairs is in accordance with the UN and OAS Charters.

The U.S. President issued a call to defy the purported aggression supported by Soviets and Cubans that, in his opinion, is carried out by Nicaragua. Reagan's speech attempted to convince an audience, the majority of which resists renewing the financing of the anti-Sandinist bands, of the importance of continued aid.

As soon as the U.S. President ended his speech, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington denounced the falsity of his statements. A communique issued by the Nicaraguan Embassy said the counterrevolutionaries supported by the Reagan administration are the ones who are killing civilians, including mothers and children, just as a manual drawn up by the CIA recommends. The note says that for this reason the Nicaraguan Government has been forced to arm the people to fight aggression from abroad.

U.S. TROOPS TO START LEAVING GRENADA IN APRIL

PA091950 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] The U.S. Government has announced that beginning in April it will start withdrawing the force of 250 troops it has maintained in Grenada since 1983, when the United States invaded that Caribbean island. According to the information, troops will remain in Grenada until the end of the current year. Prime Minister of Grenada Herbert Blaize has said that his government wishes the U.S. forces to remain on the island until the Grenadian police complete their training, which is being financed by Washington.

U.S., HONDURAS BEGIN 'BIG PINE III' MANEUVERS

PA112032 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] The United States and Honduras today began the "Big Pine III" maneuvers in Honduran territory. These maneuvers will continue until 12 April and include counterinsurgency, antitank, rapid deployment, and infantry operations.

The maneuvers, which began by deploying war materiel and troops, will be staged throughout almost all of Honduras. Its operations stage will begin in early March.

Approximately 4,500 U.S. soldiers and twice as many Hondurans will participate in the "Big Pine III" military maneuvers in which the Pentagon will invest more than $20 million. The Tegucigalpa regime will have to pay for the fuel used in the maneuvers.

As part of these mock war exercises, U.S. military engineers will expand the landing strips which were built on Honduran territory near the border with El Salvador during previous military exercises. Nicaragua has charged that "Big Pine III" is a new U.S. provocation against the Sandinist revolution.

LEVI FARAH ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

FL112216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Cuba's Minister of Construction [title as received] Levi Farah pointed today the need for reinvigorating and giving impetus to the Contadora Group's efforts to prevent the United States from hindering the Central American peace process.

Farah said that the world is undergoing an economic crisis which directly affects the Third World by provoking a series of upheavals in their political and social life when a climate of peace would lead these nations to recovery.

Interviewed at Mexico City's airport, the Cuban official commented that it was true the Ronald Reagan administration had used its economic power to block the Contadora efforts and it was also true that there have been several acts during Reagan's second term in office which tend to increase tensions.

Proof of this is the meeting held [passage indistinct] with Secretary of Trade Hector Hernandez Cervantes to study the possibility of increasing trade relations between the two countries. Minister Farah said that he believed that the church should have greater participation in the Central American difficulties because it has a powerful following in the people of the region.

He said that the church's intervention in the regional conflict could contribute to a lessening of tensions, because no one can deny that the church has great influence among the Central American people.

Lastly, the Cuban minister reiterated the position of his government to support and adhere to the resulting document on peace and development for Central America proposed by the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama because this document represents the only alternative to achieving economic, political, and social stability in Central America.

RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART UNDERSCORES USSR ECONOMIC AID

FL112346 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The existing economic ties between the Soviet Union and Cuba are examples of true socialist internationalism and of a just and constructive cooperation between a developed socialist country and one that fights to escape backwardness and underdevelopment, Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation of Cuba, said in Havana on underscoring the ties which unite the two countries.

In reference to the economic ties between the USSR and Cuba, Rodriguez Llompart said this had brought development in the production of steel, manufacture of agricultural and sugar machinery, production of fertilizers, and electronics. He said that due to the Soviet Union's determined support, Cuba was able to face and resist the brutal economic aggressions launched by Yankee imperialism against the country.

Through cooperation with the USSR, Cuba has been able to produce [word indistinct] of 350,000 tons of steel and 235,000 tons of fertilizer, and manufacture more than 600 combines, 100,000 television sets, and 300,000 radios.

Rodriguez Llompart said that last October, the cooperation program up to the year 2000 had been signed, and that cooperation guidelines between Cuba and USSR had been discussed.

MONTANE, FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY'S MARCHAIS MEET

FL111624 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, has met in Paris with Jesus Montane, alternate Politburo member of Cuba's Communist Party. The meeting was held in a warm and fraternal climate on the occasion of the 25th Congress of the French Communist Party, which ended last Sunday when Georges Marchais was reelected secretary general.

During the meeting, Montane conveyed greetings from Fidel Castro, the Communist Party of Cuba's first secretary. Georges Marchais, in turn, sent greetings to Cuba's leader and extended them to all members of the Communist Party of Cuba.

They both confirmed the improved relationship between the two Communist Parties and expressed their willingness to continue developing those ties. Montane explained to Marchais the present status of the preparations for the Communist Party of Cuba's third congress to be held in Havana late this year.

Montane Lauds French Communists

FL091326 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] It would not be possible to write a modern history of France without taking into account the valuable contributions of the French Communist Party, Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate Politburo member, said in a brief speech at the 25th Congress of the French Communist Party. Montane Oropesa is heading the Cuban delegation to the congress which began Wednesday in the town of (St Alwen), on the outskirts of Paris.

From revolutionary Cuba, the small island where socialism was born and firmly consolidated in the Latin American and Caribbean region, we bring you a message of friendship and solidarity from all of our people, the party, and Fidel, he said. Montane Oropesa expressed his assurance that the Communist Parties of Cuba and France would march forward together in the persistent and firm fight for peace and security for all nations of the world.

CARLOS LAGE PRESIDES OVER PROVINCIAL UJC MEETING

FL012356 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Feb 85

[Text] Mistaken ideas on conservation were criticized in the Union of Young Communists' [UJC] provincial evaluation assembly in Sancti Spiritus, which was presided over by Carlos Lage Davila, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the UJC.

In the debate on the main report, it was stated that young persons must work to make it clear that the limitation and reduction of services to the population do not contribute to conservation and are completely contrary to guidelines established by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR CELEBRATIONS

FL051300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] At 2030 tonight, the second celebration of Hungarian culture in Cuba will begin at the Mella Theater, in the capital.

An official delegation headed by Bela Kopeczi, Hungarian minister of culture and education, has arrived in Havana to attend the celebration. It was received by Armando Hart, Politburo member and minister of culture.

The celebration will last 10 days, during which some of the achievements of Hungarian artistic creation will be exhibited. Hungarian culture is well-known in Cuba.

Hart Receives Culture Minister

FL072336 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo and Cuban minister of culture, has received Bela Kopeczi, member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and Hungary's minister of culture and education, at the Cuban Ministry of Culture. During the fraternal meeting, cultural matters of interest were discussed. The Hungarian official and the delegation accompanying him also toured points of interest in the old Havana historical district.

Hart at Kopeczi's Departure

FL091340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] Minister of Culture Armando Hart, Politburo member, was present at the departure of Hungarian Minister of Culture and Education Bela Kopeczi from Jose Marti International Airport. Kopeczi headed an official delegation to Cuba to attend the second Hungarian cultural sessions, which will end Sunday.

ITALIAN WORKER DELEGATION MEETS WITH CDR MEMBERS

FL051558 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1529 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] An Italian delegation comprised of 19 workers, several of them militant members of the Italian Communist Party, have met with members of Cuba's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] from Zone No 1 of Manicaragua municipality, Villa Clara Province.

On behalf of the Italian delegation, (Donato Chiarmont), a progressive youth and head of the group, said that it was a very worthwhile experience to be here with the Cuban people and thanked the solidarity which those present showed him.

Ibuarturo Lorenzo, ideological secretary of the Jesus Menendez CDR of Manicaragua municipality, Villa Clara Province, gave the Italian delegation detailed information on the structure and function of the organization. The Italians asked about the work of the CDR in the fields of education, health, culture, and sports.

GDR'S GUENTHER KLEIBER HOLDS TALKS IN HAVANA

AU061336 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 2-3 Feb 85 p 3

[Excerpts] Havana (ADN) -- Guenther Kleiber, SED Central Committee Politburo member, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for general machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicles, had a cordial meeting with Pedro Miret, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], member of the State Council, and vice president of the Council of Ministers, at the end of a visit in Cuba. Guether Kleiber conveyed greetings from Erich Hoecker to Fidel Castro that were cordially reciprocated.

Guenther Kleiber held talks with Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat; and Julo Garcia Oliveras, member of the PCC Central Committee; as well as with Alejandro Roca, minister for food industry; Marcos Lage, minister for iron and steel machinery industry; and Adolfo Diaz, minister of agriculture.

COOPERATION MEETING WITH GUINEA-BISSAU BEGINS

FL112304 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1932 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] The joint Cuban-Guinea-Bissau committee for economic and scientific-technical cooperation plenary opened today at the Sierra Maestra Hotel's Protocol Hall in Havana. Alexander Nunes Coreira, minister of public health and Central Committee member of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, is leading the delegation from his country, and Juan Escalona, minister of justice and Central Committee member, is heading the Cuban delegation.

At the meetings, the delegations will study the state of cooperation between the two countries in health, education, sports, construction, agriculture, communications, and other fields.

Cuban cooperation with Guinea-Bissau is in the areas of technical assistance, training, scholarships, and exchanges of information.

MSGR VEGA CONSIDERING CASTRO INVITATION

PA080156 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Msgr Pableo Antonio Vega, president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, said in Managua that he is still willing to go to Cuba at the invitation extended by President Fidel Castro. He said that the trip depends on consultations he will hold with Episcopal Conference members in Nicaragua, who have not pressured him into refusing the invitation.

Mentioning presumably reliable sources, the conservative newspaper LA PRENSA reported last week that Msgr Vega had declined the invitation that had been extended during Castro's visit to Nicaragua in January.

DOMESTIC TRADE MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO GHANA

For Accra reportage on the visit to Ghana by an 11-member delegation led by Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa for the second session of the Ghana-Cuba joint commission for cooperation, see the Ghana subsection of the West Africa section of the 11 February Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'OUR AMERICA' ON FATE OF CHILDEAN DICTATORSHIP

PA070208 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 5 Feb 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Far from demonstrating the presumed control that Augusto Pinochet claims to have in the Chile, the most recent repressive measures adopted by the Chilean fascist dictatorship are proof that there is a strong popular movement in that South American country, which undoubtedly is advancing toward victory and the recovery of a de jure state.

Although some months ago the Chilean dictator proclaimed: not one leaf moves in Chile if I do not move it, the truth is that right now the popular forces have the initiative and are capable of shaking the dictatorship's foundations. Such an outburst of megalomania is characteristic of Pinochet, for whom power is the doubtful virtue keeping him in power for life.

However, there are indications that things will not turn out as planned for the perpetrator of the coup against the Popular Unity government who promoted President Salvador Allende's assasination and took the lives of thousands of fellow citizens for the simple reason that they did not identify with the national reaction's interests or those of the U.S. transnational firms.

The banners that Pinochet raised to justify the 11 September 1973 military coup, that is, Chile's intended return to order and democracy, are not supported today even by those who at first applauded the violent takeover of what they described as the Marxist monster.

The socioeconomic crisis that resulted from the development model implemented by Pinochet with U.S. advice showed signs of deterioration and by 1983 it exploded. Hundreds of firms have gone out of business, agriculture has suffered great deterioration, and the GNP has suffered a sharp decline that seems unrecoverable. Meanwhile, thousands are unemployed and the foreign debt has reached $20 billion, which creates an unbearable atmosphere not only for the working class, which has been exploited for decades, but also for the bourgeoisie sectors whose interests have been seriously affected.

Meanwhile, repression in Chile no longer makes distinctions and all who demonstrate the slightest disagreement with the dictatorship are sent to jail in total disregard for their social background or economic status. The great popular demonstration agaist fascism at the end of October 1984 was a great success which the government confirmed by staging one of the most ostentatious police deployments in recent times. In spite of this, the people took to the streets. A very active resistance was especially carried out by women and students.

Internationally, Chile appears to be a real anachronism in South America in the midst of nations that are taking important steps toward democratization after long and cruel military dictatorships, as in the cases of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. This juncture undoubtedly encourages the Chilean patriotic forces, who also aspire to political stability, as well as social and economic recovery in the country.

Domestically, Pinochet's regime has suffered a total loss of social support. It engages in increasing clashes with the church and evolves in an atmosphere of demoralization. Meanwhile, the people achieve greater levels of organization and in neighborhoods there are brigades in which children even play important roles in preventing police and Army raids.

This atmosphere makes one think, as many Chilean popular leaders have said, that despite the dictatorship's cruelty and boasted strength, its days are numbered and the great walks of liberty will open once again for the Chilean people, as President Salvador Allende's posthumously published statements reveal.

LONG DROUGHT AFFECTING AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK

FL091920 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The country has been suffering under a harsh drought since last May [as heard], which has been felt more in some areas, and because of this, the agriculture and forestry union is calling for greater productive efforts.

Simeon Salinas, secretary general of the union, in statements to Radio Reloj, called for the necessity of getting full productive capability going and fighting for the preservation of the livestock.

In his call to workers in this sector, the agricultural leader said that drought induced blights and diseases must not be allowed to appear in the agricultural or livestock sectors in general. Salinas said this required that each worker, doctor, veterinary, agricultural engineer, union leader, and manager give a greater effort.

Due to the nationwide drought, it is impossible to find food and water for livestock or to distribute the standard supplies while fulfilling standard health practices, Salinas said.

Waterworks Announces Shortage

FL111936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] The City of Havana Waterworks Directorate informs water users that because of the ongoing drought, the water tables and, the amount of water in the subsoil and basins that supply the city's water have gone down. In 1984, it only rained 61 percent of the normal amount in this area.

The current situation has forced a cutback of about 150,000 cubic meters in the city's daily water supply, which causes irregularity of supply and reduction of hours when water is available. Because of the cutback, there are places where water does not reach, despite all efforts.

Because of this situation, it is necessary to take certain measures which include: reducing the hours of supply and the amount of water supplied to some areas, supplying water on alternate days, redoubling efforts to eliminate leaks in the supply network and mains, demanding that production and service centers increase their efforts to eliminate leaks, and using all the forces of the waterworks at the provincial and municipal level in order to cause the least amount of difficulty to water users. It is necessary that all the people understand the situation and take the necessary mesasures to save as much water as possible.

BASIC INDUSTRY'S 1985 EXPORTABLE GOODS GOALS

FL081450 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] One of the principal goals of the Ministry of Basic Industry in the year of the third party congress is the production of exportable goods the value of which in foreign exchange will be equivalent to 440 million pesos.

Last year, the Ministry of Basic Industry produced exportable goods equivalent to more than 370 million pesos. This was 98 percent of planned production. That year, Basic Industry did not meet the production plan for nickel although deliveries of petroleum and petroleum products increased, increasing the amount of convertable foreign exchange.

24-HOUR NATIONWIDE STRIKE HELD 12 FEBRUARY

Government on 'State of Alert'

FL111420 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Secretary of State for the Presidency Hatuey de Camps has noted that the president met with trade union, political, business, and religious sectors recently to listen to their points of view on the national situation.

Referring to recent strikes in the country and the strike expected today, De Camps warned that the government is on a state of alert. He added that the president will be inflexible (?in the face of) all this to maintain his authority and to see that it is not diminished. He warned that no one can impose his will on the president of the Republic, especially because the Dominican Republic is a country headed by a president, in which as Aristotle said, every [words indistinct] extraordinary powers.

'Strict Military Vigilance' Noted

PA111605 Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 11 Feb (AFP) -- Many persons were walking to their jobs today in the Dominican Republic shortly after a 24-hour nationwide strike began and transportation became scarce. At the same time strict military vigilance was observed in the principal downtown centers and districts of Santo Domingo. The strike, called by half a dozen organizations headed by the General Workers Central (CGT) to protest the cost of living increase and pressing for other demands, began at 0600 local time.

14 Cities Affected

FL120040 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2225 GMT 11 Feb 85

[By special correspondent Mariela Chazaro Argudin]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 11 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Business activities and urban transit services here and in other cities around the country have been partially paralyzed. The 24-hour strike was held despite the fact that many business and driver associations had opposed the strike.

At this time it has been reported that 14 cities in the interior of the Dominican Republic have been affected by the strike. They are: La Romana, San Francisco de Macoris, Puerto Plata, Barahona, La Vega, Cotui, Santiago, Villa Altagracia, Moca, San Pedro de Macoris, Bonao, Mao, Higuey, and Bani. In these cities and in Santo Domingo, public administration offices were opened to the public at the usual hour but customers did not enter for any type of services.

In Santo Domingo, at approximately 1100, a large number of buses dropped dozens of public employees off in front of the Palace of Government in order to hold a meeting in support of the Salvador Jorge Blanco administration. Nevertheless, although the Dominican Revolutionary Party had called this meeting in support of the current government, once in front of the National Palace public employees dispersed and decided to return to their homes.

Many employees, who were forced to attend the deomnstration to show support, said that they had gone to the meeting because they feared that they would lose their jobs. They said many employees had been forced to go to work because they had been threatened with dismissal.

BERMUDA

SWAN APPOINTS MINISTER, RULES OUT EARLY ELECTIONS

FL112000 Bridgetown CANA in Egnlish 1916 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb 11, CANA -- Premier John Swan has appointed a new industry and technology minister, and ruled out an early general election. Senator Gerald Simons has taken over the industry and technology portfolio in addition to his post as minister of community and cultural affairs. The two departments will be run separately. Dr John Stubbs last month resigned as industry and technology minister at the same time as Tourism Parliamentary Secretary Paul Leseur stepped down from the Senate (upper house). Both cited professional reasons for their decisions.

Speculation had been mounting that Swan, the second black to lead this British colony, was considering calling an election to capitalise on disarray in the opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP). But, he has denied this. The ROYAL GAZETTE newspaper said it believed Swan decided against an election now because of the results of a telephone poll conducted by the ruling United Bermuda Party (UBP). The GAZETTE said it understood that the poll of 700 people carried out last month showed overwhelming support for the UBP, but mixed support for an early election. Swan has reportedly told friends that he would not go to the polls now unless he had a consensus to do so among both his colleagues and the people. Under Swan's leadership, the multi-racial UBP, whose popularity had been waning, swept to a clear-cut victory in 1983 general election, increasing its majority over the predominantly black PLP from four to 12 seats in the 40-seat House of Assembly. Late last year the PLP suspended four of its members of parliament for publicly calling on Mrs Lois Browne Evans to resign as party leader and they now sit as independents. Mrs Browne Evans, a 57-year-old lawyer, has said she will not step down. She has led the PLP for a total of 13 years, but the PLP, which fought its first general election in 1968, is still waiting for its first term in office.

Had Swan called an election now it would have been the third here in a little over four years.

GRENADA

POLICE TO BECOME PART OF REGIONAL SECURITY FORCE

FL081436 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has announced that Grenada will join a regional defense pact. In an address during celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of Grenada's independence from Britain, Mr Blaize said the island will be signing a 2-year-old defense treaty known as the Regional Security System [RSS]. Members include Barbados and the East Caribbean islands of St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, and Antigua and Barbuda. Mr Blaize said the Grenada police force will have an 80- to 90-member special service unit ready by mid-month that will form part of the Regional Security System.

The RSS pact, signed in Dominica in 1982, provides for cooperation in a wide range of areas, including the protection of members against external and internal threats, and the defense of regional democracy.

JAMAICA

DIVESTITURE OF SHIPPING LINE SHARES UNDER STUDY

FL061900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 6 Feb 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 6, CANA -- Jamaica is reconsidering its participation in Namucar, a shipping line owned by six Latin American and Caribbean countries, minister responsible for maritime matters Pearnel Charles has announced here. He said he could neither confirm nor deny reports here that government was planning to divest, if possible, its shares in Namucar, whose other shareholders are Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, and Costa Rica. We have been reviewing our position in Namucar, and when that is complete, I expect there will be an announcement soon on Jamaica's position and intention, Charles told CANA today.

Informed shipping sources said they expected Jamaica's position on Namucar, after a meeting of Caribbean Community (Caricom) transport ministers which opened in Kingston today. Caricom is a grouping of English-speaking Caribbean countries, whose governments jointly own the West Indies Shipping Corporation (Wisco), whose future is among the agenda items being dealt with by the ministers. Namucar was founded in the mid-1970's with Mexico and Venezuela, then in economic boom from their oil resources, being its major sponsors. But it has lost money and has been a major target for private sector sniping and ideological attacks because of Cuba's involvement. Allegations that the company's ships had been used to ship arms form Havana to Nicaragua and El Salvador were dismissed by its management.

Last April, Charles said here that the line had failed to provide an efficient shipping service for the region, and declared that Jamaica is receiving no tangible benefits from its membership. However, last September, Mexico's Transport Minister Felix Valdes announced that the owners had decided to keep their line afloat with the immediate injection of U.S. 4.5 million dollars. The member states would contribute equally to the capital increase, Valdes announced.

Officials here have been unable to say whether Jamaica was party to that agreement, and whether the Seaga government has paid its share. I expect we have been meeting our normal obligations to Namucar, Charles said without elaborating.

The shipping sources say that though Jamaica has dropped the word of its intention to divest its shares in Namucar there had been no rush of potential buyers. It was immediately unclear what the rules of the company say about one member wanting to relinquish its share.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BARBADOS' TULL TO ARRIVE FOR COOPERATION TALKS

FL111910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1853 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 11, CANA -- Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago hold a day of economic cooperation talks tomorrow to prepare for a long-awaited summit between their leaders. Barbados Foreign Minister Louis Tull arrives here tonight at the head of his country's delegation which includes representatives from the Ministeries of Trade, International Transport, Finance, Foreign Affairs, and Energy.

In announcing the talks, Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, the leader of the Trinidad and Tobago team, said tomorrow's session will thrash out an agenda for the meeting between Prime Ministers Tom Adams of Barbados and George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago. Adams last month invited Chambers to Bridgetown at a date to be set to attend the official opening of a cement plant built by both countries and for talks on resolving difficulties in their relationship.

The deterioration in relations started with a row over the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, which Barbados supported and Port-of-Spain opposed. The dispute, which related to whether Chambers knew in advance of the military intervention, led to Barbados demanding the recall of the Trinidad and Tobago envoy to Bridgetown. Chambers also asked that a new Barbados high commissioner to Port-of-Spain not take up his duties. Since then, the imposition of import licensing by Trinidad and Tobago leading to a decline in sales form Barbados and differences over air transport between the two national airlines have led to further tension.

In Bridgetown, Tull told CANA, the talks have been long in coming. There have been some difficulties and I am very glad that we can sit and talk with them (Trinidad and Tobago).

The basis for the discussions is likely to be a 1979 memorandum of understanding between the two countries under which the Arawak cement plant and the Caribbean Air Cargo Company were established. Mahabir said Chambers welcomed the plant as a tangible example of Caribbean cooperation.

Adams said last month that Barbados would request that petroleum be an agenda item for the talks. He said that Barbados wanted to integrate its small petroleum industry completely with Trinidad and Tobago, but there were technical supply difficulties to be ironed out.

Last October, Tull said that despite the difficulties, relations between the two countries were normal. The history of the two countries has been one of very close friendship.

1985 SUGARCANE HARVEST AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

FL071904 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 7, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago produced more than 17,000 tonnes of sugar in the first four weeks of its 1985 cane harvest and is well ahead of its target, according to the state-owned sugar company, Caroni Limited. During a recent news conference, company officials put production at 17,328 tonnes -- 800 tonnes ahead of the target that had been set for the period. Caroni used 236,000 tonnes of cane to produce the sugar. The cane milled was 17,000 tonnes above what the company had been expecting. The surpassing of the targets has been attributed to factors including sunny weather.

A Caroni spokesman said the company's 1,084 ploughing and cane replanting programme, which covered 6,000 acres, will lead to better production this year than Trinidad and Tobago has had for the last five years. Trinidad and Tobago started grinding cane last January 3 and the country expects to produce 100,000 tonnes of sugar this year.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VENEZUELAN MINISTER'S VISIT

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed

FL091728 Bridgetown CANA in English 1713 GMT 9 Feb 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 9, CANA -- Guyana and Venezuela, whose relations have seesawed over the years because of a longstanding territorial dispute, last evening signed an aggreement to facilitate bilateral economic cooperation, a senior Guyana Government official said today. It was the highlight of a four-day official visit by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidoro Morales Paul, who was scheduled to fly home today. Details of the agreement were not given. The Venezuelan foreign minister and his delegation had talks with senior Guyana Government officials, including Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, as well as with representatives of the local private sector.

At a luncheon in Morales' honour yesterday, Jackson called for a new horizon of peace and friendship between Venezuela and Guyana, regardless of the territorial row which has been referred to the secretary-general of the United Nations for resolution.

A senior private sector representative said there was a possibility of greater cooperation with the Venezuelan business community, especially in the area of trade. Senior executive officer of the Guyana Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GCIC), George Fung-on, also said Venezuela may provide assistance to Guyana in the field of high technology. The Venezuelans are particularly interested in importing our fresh fruits, our hard woods, dressed and rough, apart from bauxite, rice, sugar, gold, and diamonds, he said. A GCIC team is likely to visit Venezuela after formal ties are established between the GCIC and the Caracas Chamber of Commerce. Fung-on said the Venezuelans were told that the Guyana private sector, in view of the chronic foreign exchange shortage facing the country, would be unable to pay in hard currency and had suggested that trading should be on the basis of barter. The Venezuelans seemed impressed and said they would consider the points raised as soon as they return home, he said.

The main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has welcomed Morales' visit and hoped it would lead to improved relations between Guyana and Venezuela.

Joint Statement Issued

FL111526 Bridgetown CANA in English 1907 GMT 9 Feb 85

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 9, CANA -- Guyana's foreign minister Rashleigh Jackson, is to pay an official visit to Venezuela at the invitation of Isidoro Morales Paul, his Venezuelan counterpart, an official announcement said today. It came at the end of a four-day official visit here by Morales which, the joint statement said, produced a new spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two South American neighbours.

Relations between Georgetown and Caracas have seesawed over the years because of a century-old Venezuelan claim to the mineral-rich Essequibo region, which constitutes nearly two-thirds of Guyana's 83,000 square miles.

Morales held discussions on a range of issues with Jackson, including the political conflicts in Central America, the territorial dispute, and cooperation by the two countries in fishing, agriculture, health, bauxite, dredging, trade, science and technology, education and culture. They agreed that progress on these matters would considerably strengthen the relations between Guyana and Venezuela and undertook to pursue them with determination. To this end, they have agreed to establish a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of agreed programmes, the statement said. A senior government official said the two countries signed a bilateral cooperation agreement last evening. However, no details were given. During the visit, Morales also had talks with President Forbes Burnham, and Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte.

With regard to the territorial dispute, the statement said Morales and Jackson promised that their governments would give every assistance to United Nations secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, so that he can find an early solution to the problem. The two ministers said today they hoped the special representative of the secretary-general, Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez, would pay an early visit to Georgetown and and convey this information to the secretary-general. The discussions between the ministers took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding, emphasizing the role of active co-operation in creating a solid foundation for a lasting and harmonious relationship between the two countries, the statement said.

Venezuela To Buy Bauxite

FL111602 Bridgetown CANA in English 1524 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 10, CANA -- Venezuela has agreed to purchase a large quantity of bauxite from Guyana this year, according to visiting Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul. The two countries are also considering the possibility of a fishing agreement, the minister told journalists yesterday at the end of a four-day official visit. He said Venezuela will purchase 250,000 tonnes of bauxite from Guyana in 1985. Venezuela will also examine ways of helping this country with its transportation problem and technical support which Guyana would need to see whether assistance in the area of dredging can be given so that ships with greater draughts can be used in this area, he remarked. The two sides also held discussions on fishing and marine resources. In the area of fisheries, an important exchange of views was held on the possibility of entering into an agreement of cooperation in the area of marine fisheries, including an exchange of information, documentation, technical and scientific activities, and in this respect the Venezuelan team invited the Guyanese officials to an upcoming meeting in Caracas to go into detail about such cooperation and future agreements, Morales said.

During the visit, Morales paid courtesy calls on President Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte and toured the Guyana National Service (GNS) Centre at Kimbia in Berbice County. He also formally opened an exhibition of Venezuela paintings at the National Museum and laid a floral tribute at the bust of Venezuelan hero Simon Bolivar in the Romulo Gallegos Culture Centre in Georgetown.

Morales Paul Departs

FL111538 Bridgetown CANA in English 2202 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 9, CANA -- Venezuela Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul left Guyana for home this afternoon, heralding his four-day official visit as the beginning of a new era in previously hostile relations between the two neighbours. Morales, in a prepared statement read to newsmen, described the trip as highly successful and the starting point of a new stage in (bilateral) relations. He left without fielding questions.